

PRESTON NORTH END FOOTBALL CLUB



One Hundred Years at Deepdale

1881-1981

by
Harry Berry and Geoffrey Allman



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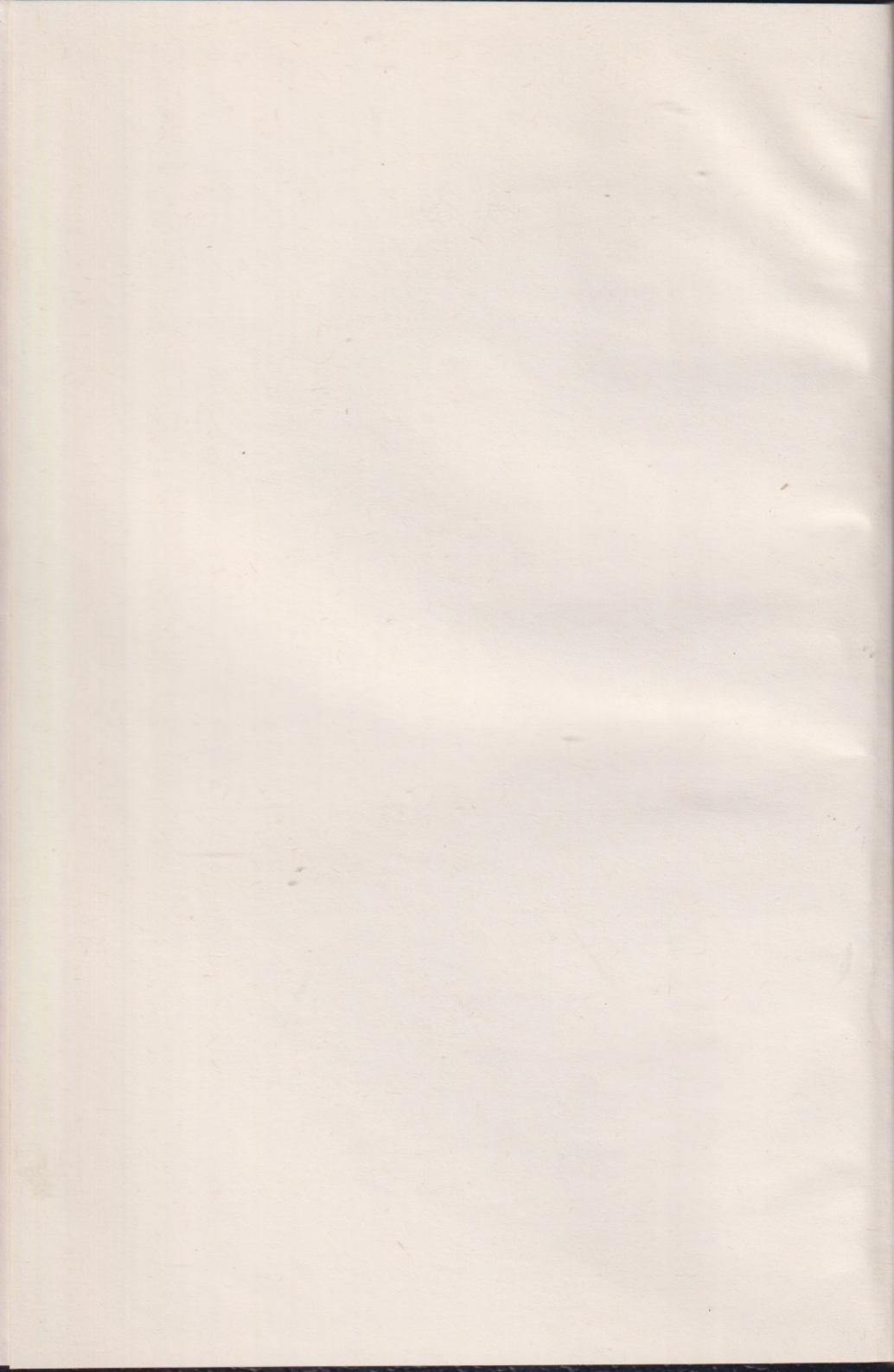
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Has had a great interest in Preston North End over the years, was author of Blackburn Rovers Centenary Book in 1975.





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by
Hunt & Co.
and
Geoffrey Aliman

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MRS. J. BAMBER
A. BILLINGTON, ESQ.
MRS. M. BRODIE
MRS. E. M. BURTON
SIR STANLEY ROUS, C.B.E.
MRS. N. CATTERALL
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W. FAZACKERLEY, ESQ.
TOM FINNEY, O.B.E.
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
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Many others also helped by recounting details of incidents with which they had links and to them all we tender our sincere thanks. Finally thanks to Mrs. K. Bradshaw and Amblers Printers for their attention to detail, and their skill and patience in the printing of this edition.

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Sir Stanley Rous, C.B.E.

The history of a famous football club - Preston North End - makes fascinating reading and I am pleased to write a few introductory remarks to a book which I hope will be widely circulated among officials, players and supporters.

Although I am nearly as old as the Club, I never was privileged to see the famous 'Invincibles' who, between 1885 and 1892 were famous exponents of fast, decisive, forward play, once beating Hyde F.C. in a Cup match by 26 goals to nil. It was after that match that The Football Association realised that some players were being paid and gave official blessing to the payment of players.

When I was master at the Watford Grammar School, I met one of those famous proud Preston players - Johnny Goodall - winner of a Cup final medal in 1889. Johnny was groundsman at the nearby West Herts Sports Club and as a member I well remember his pride in preparing perfect tennis court, and cricket pitches on which Arthur Grimsdell the famous England and Spurs football player used to keep wicket for Hertfordshire. Johnny had two sons at the Watford Grammar School both outstanding cricketers, county standard, and later both employed in banks, one in Paris and one in London. Johnny's hobby was breeding and selling Norwich canaries. He had a recognised reputation as an expert in that field. One day he asked if I had seen in that day's newspaper the news of Charles Buckan's transfer from Sunderland to Arsenal for £1,000. When I said I had and referred to the modest wage packet that he had received as a player he murmured: "I was born 50 years too soon."

The story of the 'Invincibles' doing 'the double' by winning the F.A. Cup and Championship in 1889, was dramatically reported in the Lancashire Evening Post of that year, stating that the Cup was won without conceding a goal and the Championship without losing a match. When the team arrived home from London three days after the Final, there were 30,000 Preston North End fans to greet them. The President of the Club, Mr. Sudell, was holding the Cup and G. Drummond, the captain, nursed the ball. Mr. Sudell was a prominent figure in the years which followed this success as a negotiator with The Football Association for the establishment of professional football and the permanent formation of The Football Association. Throughout the years which followed the fortunes fluctuated,

but Preston North End were finalists in seven F.A. Final Cup-ties. They were noted too for their amateur goalkeepers, Dr. R. H. Mills-Roberts and later in 1921, J. F. Mitchell and when in 1897 Sir Frederick Wall, F. A. Secretary, permitted player R. Holmes to coach Stoneyhurst College, he became the first paid coach appointed by The Football Association and more history was made.

The details of the officials, players and managers throughout the years are to be found in the pages of this book. I remember particularly Cliff Britton, who previously had been a regular member of the England international teams at half back with Cullis and Mercer. He served as manager of the Club from 1956 to 1961.

Supporters of the Club who have seen Tom Finney play for Preston North End and England and read his book 'Football Round the World' and 'Finney' as told to David Jack, were as pleased as I was to hear in January 1976 that Tom had been elected President of the Club. No one could be more appropriate. I met Tom first in 1941 in the War, when as a soldier he played at Stoke in a match for the Red Cross. He was the 'man of the match' outshining other distinguished internationals. I kept in touch with Tom and when in 1945 was invited to pick a team to go to Switzerland to play a match in Berne to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Swiss F.A., I cabled to Tom's commanding officer in Italy asking him to allow Tom special leave. He arrived at the team's headquarters in London. Some of the other servicemen still serving had come in uniform because the War was not over in some parts of the world, and Switzerland being strictly neutral we all had to wear civilian suits - they all had to be rushed to Moss Brothers to be fitted out with mufti. The War over and matches resumed, they were attended by a special admirer of Tom, namely Field Marshall Montgomery. Whenever I met him at sporting events at Wembley, Lord's and Wimbledon, he always asked: "How is Tom Finney? Still playing? In my 8th Army you know!"

If the players of the present and future Preston North End teams follow the example set by Tom Finney as a player, administrator and even author, they will again be a successful and happy club proud of their famous traditions.

I wholeheartedly recommend this book, which is the record of a famous Club.

February 1982

Stanley Rous

Chapter 1

Crossing the Ribble

"It's my bat and if I'm out I'm not playing." The cliché of childhood that recalls so many distant memories. Yet possibly out of an incident only degrees removed from such childishness sprang the seed that blossomed into Preston North End, a club who a quarter of a century later became absolute champions of the football world. Before this happy situation was reached, the Club had to change sports not once but twice, a perfect example of the indiscriminate hand of fate in selecting the recipients of his smile. The formative years for the Club ran the whole gamut of experiences, poverty, near bankruptcy, internal strife, visionary idealism, inspired action and finally a superiority the like of which the game has never since witnessed, or is likely to do so.

In the early eighteen sixties the only organised team game of note was cricket. The normal venue for such activity in Preston was the Marsh, an uncertain, irregular strip of land on the Ribble estuary at Ashton that was home for most of the town's teams. Among their ranks was the Bow Lane Cricket Club, typical of the rank and file, not especially noted for any outstanding achievements. During the year of 1863, a split in their membership led to a group of disidents leaving to form their own club, occupying a neighbouring part of the Marsh. It was this splinter group which was to become Preston North End, though the name was not to be adopted until 1867. In that year they moved to a new pitch, contained in the confines of the newly constructed Moor Park. To celebrate this move they christened themselves the Nelson, in honour of the great nautical hero. Mr. W. W. Hulme, the Club Secretary, proposed that they be renamed Preston North End, a motion that was quickly accepted. The Club's first president Mr. George Haworth promptly entered into the spirit of patronage, by offering the players a 'douceur' (a sweetener or bribe) whenever they were successful. His fellow committee members at the time were:- T. Banks, R. Green, W. Dobson, E. Goddard, W. Naylor, T.

Hulme, R. Woods, J. Williamson and W. H. Hulme the majority of whom were active playing members. Subscriptions were a mere 2d a week, and there was no charge for admission, as a result of which the Club's financial situation was hardly rosy. So marked was the problem, that on many occasions the Club almost disbanded and on one black day even reached the stage of dividing the bats, balls and other stock between the members. Fortunately some of the players had influential connections and by recruiting new members of some substance, the financial crisis gradually eased. With the newcomers came a man destined to play the critical role in the Club's climb to greatness, William Sudell. When he joined on the 3rd August, 1867 Sudell was a stripling of sixteen, a member of the town's elite, being a direct descendant of a Guild Mayor of some centuries previous. Except for a spell at school in Cheshire, he had lived in the town all his life and at that time was taking up an appointment as a future executive in one of the town's cotton mills. His presence at North End was that of an active sportsman seeking exercise, for in his own right he was quite an athlete. A fine swimmer and cyclist, keen cricketer and proficient rugby forward, he was soon to become one of the finest skaters the town had ever had and devoted servant to all sports, whether in a competitive or administrative capacity.

With financial problems still lurking in the background, it must have taken remarkable courage to commit the Club to a legally enforceable contract, but on the 21st January, 1875 a momentous decision was reached. A lease was taken out on the ground at Deepdale. With a rent to find, the Club could no longer sit back and let events take their course. Action to raise funds had to be implemented and soon they were promoting all manner of sports. Demonstration games of lacrosse and rounders were given and there was the bizarre spectacle of clown cricketers. All were financial failures straining the Club's coffers still further. In 1876 they turned to professional athletics and promoted several meetings. Successful though these were, like cricket, they suffered from the drawback of too short a season.

Not daunted, the members turned to rugby football fielding a side which normally consisted of: Backs - W. Turner, S. Miller, H. S. Cartmell, T. Wadeson, J. Hynes, R. Green, T. Charnley. Forwards - W. Sudell, T. Parkinson, Sefton, F. Dodgson, J. Parkinson, Mayor and J. Sumner. They began badly with two successive defeats but with experience, techniques and results improved. The team possessed some noted sprinters and by ensuring that the ball reached them they utilised their speed to maximum effect, so much so, that they were able to pass through

the remainder of the season undefeated.

Unfortunately, the victories on the field were not reflected in either the attendance figures or social esteem in the town. The Grasshoppers were already well established and had determined rivals in the Hornets, which left little of the limelight for North End. Realising that to supplant either side in the popularity stakes would be a mammoth task, several members of the Club began to look for an alternative sport. They did not have to look far.

Soccer had spread northwards, sired of the same parentage as rugby but now irrevocably split. Evolving from attempts by the scholastic academics in the South to legislate on ball games such as Harrow rules and various other hybrids, it had proved a natural impromptu recreation for thousands of working men, who could easily make a ball of rags or obtain a suitable sized stone to kick around. This nascent game was the one North End opted for, though they were not the first in the town to do so. West End were already playing, so were Preston Zingari, School Lane and Higher Walton. Yet in most respects Preston was still a footballing backwater. The game was still, by present day standards, primitive, even barbaric, but some degree of expertise had developed in the South in Universities and Public Schools. If by chance a product of one of these establishments came North and helped establish a club, then he brought with him invaluable experience. Blackburn Rovers had already been established some four years earlier by two such men, Arthur Constantine and John Lewis, which gave them a lead that was not to be relinquished without a struggle. Even as obscure a village side as Turton, benefitted from the presence of the village schoolmaster U. T. Dixon and the scion of the manor J. C. Kay, to develop into a formidable side. In a town that was a hot bed of rugby, with no such missionary, North End's improvement had to be self taught.

Sensibly refusing to be stampeded into another fruitless pastime they experimented with an exhibition game against Eagley in season 1879/80. This they lost by a solitary goal, fielding a side that lined up:- W. Sudell, H. S. Cartmell, W. Turner, Sefton, T. Charnley, T. Wadeson, C. Miller, T. Parkinson, F. Dodgson, R. Green - all were rugby players.

Yet the need to improve was a spur the Club suffered gladly. On the 27th November, 1880, they displayed all their ambition and a fair measure of courage by taking on Astley Bridge, a well established side, already of sufficient standing to have had their goalkeeper play for the Lancashire County side. Expecting a thrashing, but prepared to suffer in the cause of learning the side

of:- Parkinson, McDade, Knowles, Dent, Cookson, Robinson, Sharp, Ainscough, Ainsworth, Holland and Bateman took the field. The result of the game was somewhat unorthodox and surprising, North End claimed a moral victory by one goal and a disputed goal to one goal. Scoring star was James Cookson, one of the half backs in the 4-2-4 formation who scored not only the valid goal but the one which was hotly disputed and left the two umpires in disagreement. The other players who acquitted themselves with distinction were Bateson, a promising young forward and Parkinson, who once astonished spectators by fisting the ball almost to the half way line.

Indecisive though the result appears, it was to be the Club's first step in the climb up the ladder of greatness. On the strength of it, fixtures with more illustrious and established clubs, could be negotiated. By the end of the season their ambition and acumen were sufficient to persuade Blackburn Rovers to visit the Club's ground in Deepdale Road. Not then a national power, the Rovers had established a reputation second only to that of Darwen within Lancashire. Indeed though no one guessed it at the time, the Rovers were on the brink of great achievements. It was Darwen though who were then capturing the headlines and on that very afternoon of 26th March, 1881 they were breaking new ground for a Northern club, by appearing in the F.A. Cup semi-final. The Rovers who visited Preston, were thus a side bent on proving their worth and to this end had followed Darwen's lead and begun to recruit one or two itinerant Scottish professionals.

Full of hope the North End kicked off the game a few minutes past four and began to display such good form that the spectators were permitted to indulge in undreamt of peaks of optimism. By a quarter past four the score-line was still blank and the Preston captain H. S. Cartmell, who like Nuttall and Chadwick had not played against Astley Bridge, was proving to be a tricky, penetrative dribbler. He and Bateman made several quixotic advances at the Blackburn goal, which caused, if not panic, at least some hasty repulsion. Then the Rovers decided to join in the game. By the time the clock reached seventeen minutes past four, they had opened the score. At twenty past they were three up. When the game ended no less than sixteen goals had passed the demoralised Parkinson, who had been loudly and a little ungenerously barracked for one that had passed between his legs. On North End's behalf all the bravado of Bateman and the unquestioned skill of Cartmell could not produce even a consolation goal. Clearly there were lessons still to be learned as the Preston Herald reporter was quick to appreciate, pointing

out that 'as far as football is concerned, North End have yet to learn that unity is strength.'

Despite this hard earned lesson the Club was committed henceforth to the association football path. At a committee meeting prior to the game, the motion to adopt that sport had been proposed by H. S. Cartmell, seconded by T. Charnley and had been overwhelmingly passed. As a result affiliation to the Lancashire F.A. had been sought and received. Entry into the Lancashire Cup was one of the benefits of membership and a three all draw with Bootle was no mean achievement. In goal that day was Sudell, who later took a great deal of pleasure in recounting his experience. The heavy defeats though were still experienced and on the 7th January, 1882, North End were on the wrong end of an eight goal hammering by Turtón. Parkinson had now given way in goal to the versatile Cookson, Robinson had become a full back and there was a sprinkling of new forwards, Smalley, Rawlinson, Durham and an isolated visit from a Scottish guest player Jack Gordon. Gordon a long lean right winger from Port Glasgow Athletic, was like so many of his countrymen in the process of scouting around for a progressive club which would reward his talents in financial terms. Later the same month (February 1882) he returned home without any firm commitment. The Club's results had not yet indicated the tremendous potential which was to become so evident in the very near future.

To confirm Gordon's assessment the Rovers came down to Deepdale during the Guild week and thrashed North End by eleven goals to two. However assistance was at hand, Bethel Robinson who had played with Bolton Wanderers, had joined the Club and had been elected Secretary in succession to Cartmell. His knowledge of the game and signs of stability in both approach and finance, were evident by the erection of a covered stand to house 600 at the end of the 1882/83 season. The minimum price of admission for games at Deepdale at this time was 3d. Robinson was able to put his contacts to good use and persuaded C. Duckworth of Lower Darwen, a fine full back, to throw in his lot with North End. Cynics may consider the decision hardly a momentous one, but at the time it was no mean achievement to persuade Duckworth that North End had a future. Lower Darwen were not a top class side like the Rovers or Darwen but they sprang from the hot bed of soccer. Every parish and hamlet from Blackburn to Bolton, could muster a side fit to take on the best in the country and Lower Darwen were more capable than most. They had beaten, or seriously extended, every top class Lancashire side and with a little better support might

have aspired to F.A. Challenge Cup standard. Certainly, they could be excused for being somewhat perplexed at the departure of one of their best players to a young and little known club outside the main area of football dominance. By obtaining Duckworth's services North End unwittingly but definitely continued their evolution. Their original aims had been to simply provide recreation for the young men of the area. Now they were committing themselves to the achievement of success and fame by, if necessary, resorting to importation.

Duckworth was not the only new face. A goalkeeper of real substance, W. Joy, later to be selected for the County, emerged and among the forwards the most promising was Fred Dewhurst, a schoolmaster at the Catholic College, one of the Club's first secretary's and a man renowned for testing his physical prowess against rival goalkeepers. New blood brought better results and a leap up the local rankings, with victories over Park Road and Witton (numbers three and four in Blackburn behind the Rovers and Olympic) and two obscure Darwen clubs, the Ramblers and the Saxons. There was also a Lancashire Cup victory over Lower Darwen before Turton terminated their interest in the competition. However, there was a dampening perspective from another result. The Rovers' reserves, who could barely raise eleven players, beat them three-two to demonstrate the gulf that separated North End from the giants of the game.

By now it was very clear, that patronage and professionalism were the obvious means of development for football. Clubs began to recruit mentors who could flourish an altruistic sovereign and were not afraid to commercialise the club's affairs and this was why William Sudell's pedigree and affluence greatly influenced proceedings. Appointed Chairman of North End in 1874, he had risen in his vocation and holding a commission in the local rifle corps, the First Volunteer Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, he possessed the contacts that could be used to advantage. As a business man of substance, he readily visualised the benefits a successful soccer club could have for a town like Preston. Examples abounded locally of the way in which the importation of one or two Scottish masters, had enabled teams to improve their game until they ranked with the best in the land. Indeed in that very Spring (1883) the National Cup had come to Lancashire for the first time, to Hole i'th Wall the marshy home of Blackburn Olympic. Overshadowed throughout their brief existence by the Rovers, they had risen from obscurity to be the proud slayers of the tradition that Cup winners came from the Nation's Capital. Olympic's *modus operandi* had been brief but effective. A working men's club, made up from the ranks of men

who worked in the local mills, they were always having to cope with financial problems and forever fighting an inexorably losing battle with the Rovers for popularity. Yet they still possessed the ambition and foresight in the previous season, to induce Jack Hunter, the gnarled, veteran wing half of Sheffield Healey and England, to come to Blackburn and take over the running of their affairs. Not that Hunter needed much encouragement. He was deep in trouble with the local Football Association over the alleged acceptance of remuneration when assisting the Zulus, a composite Sheffield side who played charity matches arrayed in fancy dress. With the notorious fanatic of amateurism, Mr. Pierce Dix, a wealthy gentleman, football official, referee and ex-player conducting a pogrom in the city to banish forever the evils of professionalism, Hunter was more than glad to slip across the Pennines, particularly since Olympic had emptied their coffers to purchase the goodwill of a public house and install him as the landlord. This stratagem, to overcome the rigid rules on amateurism, was one that had been developed by the clubs like Blackburn Rovers and Bolton, and was now being copied by many others. Although Hunter was not even officially the Olympic captain, he took charge of affairs and effected such dramatic improvement within a year they gained their Cup victory.

Sudell needed no prompting to realise that a similar personality could work equivalent miracles at Preston, indeed Olympic had contrived the feat relatively cheaply by choosing a Sheffield man, whereas it was commonly acknowledged that the real masters of the game lay over the border in Scotland. Knowing that Glasgow had already been plundered by clubs like the Rovers and Bolton, North End's attentions were concentrated on Scotland's other premier city Edinburgh, where forty clubs provided ample basis for selection of a likely individual but Sudell, made a policy decision that was to have reverberating consequences. Only the best was to be good enough for Preston which narrowed the search down to three clubs, Hibernian, Heart of Midlothian and St. Bernards. Thereupon the choice was almost a formality. The Hearts captain was a demoniac, inspiring, piratical figure by the name of Nick Ross, still in his mid twenties, but able, in the parlance of the day to play "all over the shop". His best position was said to be either centre forward or as an attacking centre half, but his versatility was such, that he could play with distinction in any position and his goal scoring capabilities were outstanding. Ross was soon to be dubbed the 'Demon Back', a tag earned by his uncompromising hardness, professional intensity and discoloured teeth, which were so badly stained that they were

almost green. The nickname also denoted the position Preston gave him, for he became the Club's left back where the length of his clearance kicks soon earned him fame far beyond the town. It was one of the game's greatest sights, to see Ross move effortlessly to collect an opposition kick pursued by six pounding forwards and nullify all their labours by returning it a prodigious distance upfield. Despite his reputation for muscle, he was an astute tactician and innovator. He alone was the first to realize the value of the pass back to the goalkeeper, an almost unheard of play at a time when forwards hounded goalkeepers ruthlessly and the whole object of the game was to go forward as quickly and strongly as possible and keep the ball in the opponents half of the field.

Down from Scotland with Ross came Geordie Drummond of St. Bernards, like his new team mate a footballing jack of all trades, more often than not accommodated at inside right, but later equally at home on either wing, full back or wing half, and the awe inspiring David Russell a centre half from Stewart Cunningham. Like Ross all were supremely fit, accomplished footballers but were men, despite being only eighteen, who brought a degree of vigour and professional ruthlessness to North End's game that had never been seen previously.

Plundering Scotland for football talent did not make North End unique in Lancashire football circles but another signing caused quite a stir. Blackburn Olympic, the newly crowned Cup holders, awoke to the realities of their perilous financial situation within months of their epic Cup Final victory, when they learned that dashing George Wilson had succumbed to the persuasions of Preston officials and moved to Deepdale. Unlike the rest of the Olympic side who were all local mill workers who scorned the greater rewards of affluent clubs, Wilson was not nurtured in tradition. Like Hunter he was a Sheffield man who had fled the city when the Zulu scandal arose, crossing the Pennines to Swinton. Here, in obscurity, Hunter had found him and quickly persuaded him to come to Blackburn where he was found employment as a clerk. Originally a wing half Hunter saw him as the answer to a centre forward problem and Wilson obliged by becoming a prolific scorer, twice claiming hat tricks in the early rounds of the Cup competition. No doubt if Olympic had been a richer club they would have treated Wilson as well as they had Hunter and found him a pub, but the necessity for frugality thwarted their ambitions. Accordingly when Preston offered Wilson the post of landlord of the Black-a-Moor Head, a position far more remunerative than his clerical occupation, he leapt at the chance to make the short journey westward.

When, soon after, the player announced his imminent

marriage, the caustic statement of an Olympic official was ample comment on the situation. "Surely", he remarked "Preston have not found him a wife as well as a pub".

Similar sentiments were probably expressed in Sheffield when it was found that Tom Buttery, Wednesday's left back was to join Wilson. Possibly their feelings were even more bitter, certainly there was no reported attempts at wry humour for the Buttery family had been pioneers of the sport. In a city renowned for its puritan attitude to the game, the loss of such a pillar of football was keenly felt and for men like Pierce Dix, a chilling demonstration that their personal beliefs were fast becoming outmoded. To rub salt into the wound neither player was really needed at North End. Nick Ross's wish to play left back meant that Buttery became a highly experienced deputy and Wilson's undoubted prolificacy was seldom put to the test. J. Belger had already been recruited from the Scottish club South Western, to lead the line and Wilson often figured on the right wing or more usually at right half alongside Russell. With Ross partnering Duckworth at full back the only non-imported men in the side were Joy in goal, Robinson at wing half and the left wing pair of Dewhurst and Smalley.

Ross's tactical know-how and ability in organisation consolidated the Club's improvement. The previous season 1882/83 they had obtained respect from sides in the county, now even the better clubs further afield began to fear them. By the time the second round of the Cup arrived in early December 1883, North End had the impressive record of P 13, W 9, D 3, L 1, Gls F 50, A 19, only Darwen having been sufficiently skilful to lower their colours. Their Cup opponents, Great Lever, came into the game with a record that was just as impressive, P 16, W 14, L 2, F 78, A 29, and with a great reputation as a footballing power. Their goalkeeper R. Wilson was first choice for Lancashire and was by no means the Club's first wearer of county colours. No Preston player had yet risen to such august heights, though Fred Dewhurst was soon to do so, taking part in the game against London for the benefit of the Moorfield Colliery Relief Fund. Optimism though ran high and a record gate of eight thousand, proof that the town was becoming soccer orientated, greeted these Preston players on 1st December, 1883: Joy, Duckworth, Ross, Robinson, Russell, Brown, Wilson, Drummond, Belger, Dewhurst, Smalley. They treated the fans to an exhibition of fast skilful football, played with impressive power and stamina and gained a 4-1 victory. This was soon consolidated by a 9-1 victory over Eagley in the next round. Growing fame brought increasing support. When the team went to visit Blackburn Park Road, their following was sufficient to

persuade the West Lancs Railway to run a special train carrying three hundred spectators. On Christmas Day nine thousand spectators crammed into the ground to watch North End administer a 3-1 mauling to Walsall Swifts, a team talented enough to have drawn with the Olympic the previous day. Yet Major Sudell's appetite for success was insatiable. If a sprinkling of Scots could make this difference he realised that further importations might bring the Club eternal glory. J. Ferguson, a defender from Hearts, Alex Sanders (Sandy) Robertson a painter by trade and a tough wing half from St. Bernards and Gordon, who re-appeared after nearly two years of indecision about North End's prospects, were enticed down from Edinburgh to increase the team's resources.

The conflux of so many expert players led the Club to pioneer new methods and approaches. Off the field Major Sudell, a man who could well cope with soccer's tactical side and Nick Ross, introduced the blackboard to the North End dressing room. They also began to plot moves utilising chess pieces on a billiard table to demonstrate possibilities. The planning was reflected in their play. The game was still highly individualistic. Dribbling was the recognised method of progression and many of the Preston forwards were noted for the 'art of dodging'. Priority was now given to team work. The short passing Scottish style was introduced and Drummond soon became the example used by many a club Chairman lecturing on the benefits of making the ball do the work. The ability of Jack Gordon to pin point a cross within inches of its intended destination, brought headwork into play as an offensive stratagem. At the time the ball was only played with the head when it had been inadvertently ballooned into the air. North End saw the value of the high centre and soon Belger and Dewhurst were reaping a fine harvest with some spectacular headers. Teams who lacked the ability and foresight to realise that an emerging game still had to evolve its tactics, were soon left behind as North End marched forward with ever increasing strides.

As playing numbers increased, the competition for places became intense. When Upton Park came to Deepdale for the next round of the Cup on 19th January, 1884, there was no place for Wilson or Ferguson and a two week sojourn by the sea at Saltburn was indicative of the importance North End attached to the competition. Excitement was at fever pitch, for having reached the later stages of the Cup their opposition was, for the first time, from the South. In addition its members were drawn from the ranks of the Universities and Public Schools, and although in retrospect the tide was already turning away from the

early dominance held by these establishments, the effects had not yet become obviously apparent. The attendance rose to a staggering thirteen thousand, though for once they were not treated to the customary victory. Upton Park's young dons 'played well to a man' and after Preston had gone in front their 'usual combination and accuracy in front of goal seemed to leave them'. An equaliser against the run of play could not be nullified and left an intriguing question to be answered. Could North End, who seldom left their own county, make the trip to the game's spiritual home and emerge victorious?

No answer was ever received to the poser. Before the replay could be arranged, Upton Park submitted a protest to the F.A. on the grounds that Preston's players were professionals. Such charges had already been upheld against Accrington, who had, as a result, been expelled from the F.A. Against this background Major Sudell travelled South to argue Preston's case. It is commonly, but erroneously believed, that in doing so he made a blatant admission of professionalism. No strategist as skilled as Sudell would have committed his club to such a unilateral declaration. His only concessions were that the Club imported players and found them work, but his contention was that such actions were not contrary to the bye laws of the Football Association or the rules of the Cup competition. The rule in question stated:- The Challenge Cup Competition shall be open to all clubs belonging to the Association and the Cup shall be competed for annually by eleven members of each competing club, no member being eligible who receives remuneration of any sort, above his travel and necessary hotel expenses incurred and the one day's wages actually lost owing to his taking part in any match. No individual shall be allowed to play for any club in the competition, unless he has been a duly elected member of such club at least for one calendar month.

As can be seen from the official rules, Sudell's concessions were in no way an admission of any breach, yet without any tangible supporting evidence North End were found guilty and expelled from both the competition and the F.A. One other result of the disqualification was a threat by no less than 36 prominent Northern clubs to leave the F.A. and form their own British Football Association. Amongst these clubs were Accrington, Bolton, Burnley, Preston North End, Newton Heath (now Manchester United) and Sunderland. It should also be recorded, that Upton Park did not return their share of the gate money received from the match at Deepdale. In Preston itself a dichotomy of opinion arose amongst supporters regarding the decision. Most regarded it as another example of Southern bias

in operation against the more virile forces of the North, but a minority expressed a more sinister view and blamed Blackburn Rovers. The winners of the tie had been drawn to play Rovers and ignoring the strong and openly expressed denunciations of the F.A. decision by two Rovers committee members. Dr. S. W. Morley and Mr. D. B. Woolfall, and forgetting the Rovers' benevolence in playing lucrative friendlies at Deepdale to help establish North End, this minority cast malicious glances towards Blackburn and demanded satisfaction on the football field. As the Rovers marched steadily to the final by thoroughly outplaying Upton Park, passions became even more inflamed. Well managed as ever Preston sought to appease their supporters' demands and on the 23rd February, 1884, persuaded the Rovers to return to Deepdale. Although the game had become a blood match in Preston eyes, Rovers were involved in further exacerbating the situation by making it plain that they had loftier considerations than mere local vendettas. Accordingly they released their full back James Beverley to play for England, though in borrowing Darwen's Shorrock to replace him, they did at least demonstrate their awareness of practicalities.

Preston's team bore a change that was a chilling portent for the youth of the town who wished to aspire to play for their local team. Smalley, one of the few local men left in the side was omitted in favour of Wylie, a trialist from Glasgow South Western. The appearance of this Scot was to be an indication that the policy of bringing in players from Scotland was well and truly launched. However Sudell, in an attempt to generate interest in football at schoolboy level, persuaded North End to donate a Challenge Shield for an inter-school competition.

From the kick off Preston were in command. Much of the defensive work normally fell on the full backs, who played centrally and hence needed to dove tail efficiently. Sharrock seemed unable to ally himself correctly alongside Suter and bad positioning caused the Rovers' defence many problems. In addition Drummond could pass the experienced McIntyre at will and this brought Arthur the Rovers' goalkeeper in constant action. The Rovers' forwards were all light weights three of them each weighing less than ten stone. The mighty Russell coped with ease, spinning them off the ball whenever he made contact which was frequently.

Hardly surprisingly Drummond opened the scoring. Soon it was two. A corner was swung to the left, Drummond drove it back across goal where Arthur could only knock it down onto the line. As he desperately dropped on the ball, half the Preston



PRESTON NORTH END 1882-1883
(pictured in their first kit with hooped shirts)

Back Row L/R: C. Duckworth, B. Dent, B. Robinson, W. Sudell (Director),
Centre Row L/R: H. Cartmell, W. J. Joy, J. Belger, F. Dewhurst, W. Brown,
Front Row L/R: W. Lamb, J. Nuttall, C. Bolton, W. Smalley.



W. SUDELL
Associated with Preston North End for 26 years.
1867 - 1893



top left

N. J. ROSS

1883 - One of the first Scots signed by Mr. Sudell from Herts, could play in defence or attack, considered the best full back of his day.

top right

G. DRUMMOND

Another Scot able to play in any position, gave North End sterling service from 1883 to 1895 as a player and trainer.

bottom right

A. WHARTON

Goalkeeper (1887). Well-known sprinter and cyclist. The first coloured player to play for North End.



forward line arrived on the scene and amid a frenzied but brief fracas the ball crossed the line. Before half time came the most vital goal. Arthur and Suter watched the ball pass out of play for a goal kick. A Preston player and the referee did not agree with their claim. The ball was crossed into the goalmouth and Wylie rose unmarked to head the ball on to the underside of the crossbar, from where it dropped over the line. It was ironic that the most important goal of Preston's short career, should fall to a forward who was only transient at Deepdale. Spurred by these reverses the Rovers and in particular little Jimmy Brown, demonstrated their class. An electrifying dribbler the centre forward twice cork screwed through the defence to obtain great goals and make a fight of it. Amid mounting tension, reflected by violence on the field, Joy received a kick on the head and was helped off, being superseded by Drummond. Happily for Preston there were few braver custodians than Joy and he was soon back to defy the Rovers for the remainder of the game. The 3-2 victory was dramatic and gleefully celebrated by Preston fans. The days of the sixteen nil defeat were gone forever.

Indeed the Rovers' supporters were soon making excuses for a well beaten side. Beverley's absence, McIntyre's strange indisposition, two highly contentious goals and above all North End's robust play were all given as reasons for the reverse. Local rivalry had reached new heights of intensity. By 12th April, 1884 when the clubs met again at Leamington Road, the Rovers were Cup holders and the game was anticipated with relish weeks in advance. Every possible conveyance was utilised to take Prestonians to Blackburn. The trains ran a shuttle service, the gates were opened three hours before the kick off and locked with eleven thousand inside well before the start. Thousands more watched from outside but the game fell well short of expectations. In a bitter and hostile atmosphere a goalless draw was literally fought, leaving it difficult to draw conclusions. The Preston supporters had no doubts, in a period of two months a win and a draw against the Cup holders justified their right to claim that North End were the best team in England.

Now that North End's affairs were being conducted in such a manner that they could only advance as a professional club, the stage had been set to achieve greatness. Joy and Dewhurst were the only Englishmen left in the side. Wylie's brief but dramatic stint had ended and his permanent successor was yet another Scot, Sam Thomson, a stylish player from the Ayrshire village of Lugar Boswell and who was playing inside right for Glasgow Rangers. Behind him was the burly Jack Graham, a quarryman from Annbank, who had built himself a magnificent physique at

the rock face. The enormous strength in his well muscled arms was soon put to good use as he propelled the ball enormous distances from the throw in position.

The following season (1884/5) the vexed question of professionalism cast a dark shadow over an astonishing playing record that ended P 55, W 42, D 7, L 6, Goals F 210, A 51. Expelled from membership of the F.A. because of Sudell's unrepentant attitude, they were debarred from playing in the F.A. Cup. When the reserve team lost their Lancashire Cup tie with Southport, the Club had to be content with establishing a record that was to demonstrate to all the benefits of overt professionalism.

Success on the field of play was the major factor in Sudell's campaign to establish a club's rights to conduct its affairs in any manner it chose, since he realised that no matter what the wishes of F.A. officials might be, the presence of a great side in the country would be stimulus for other clubs to pit their resources against them. It was not though the full extent of Sudell's tactics. Indeed his campaign was conducted so deviously but brilliantly that it was machiavellian. Never a man to neglect the diplomatic path, he importuned several of the F.A. officials and by skilfully exerted pressure struck up a number of improbable alliances, which soon brought tangible reward when the Club was readmitted to membership of the F.A. To do this he had to conduct negotiations of such a subtle and intricate nature, that only a man with his fertile and alert mind could have succeeded. Soon he had support in the F.A. Committee, through none other than Blackburn Rovers Dr. Morley. Stranger conspirators cannot be imagined. Sudell's views on open professionalism and the ultimate success of Preston North End were self-evident, yet he still persuaded Morley who had long cherished amateur ideals, to champion his cause. To achieve this objective Sudell had carefully studied Morley's character. Although an official of Blackburn Rovers, Morley took his F.A. duties seriously and kept them quite independent of the aspirations of his club. In doing so he had become a football statesman, then a prerogative of the gentleman amateur. Experience of the development of the game in football's leading county had left him a pragmatist and he was astute enough to realise, that there was no possibility of the growth of professionalism being checked. Unlike Sudell he believed that it could be restricted and favoured footballers having full time occupations but being paid for playing on Saturday afternoons. Sudell knew full well Morley's reservations but by shrewdly concealing some of his own ambitions he gained an important ally, knowing that if Morley could legalise any form

of professionalism, time would inevitably see the completion of Sudell's dreams.

When the attacks on both these fronts were taking their inevitable slow path, Sudell decided to assist his campaign with a spot of gun boat diplomacy. The F.A. was a parochial body, concentrated in London and slow to react to views from the provinces. Therefore an invitation to W. C. 'Billy' Rose to keep goal for the Club, brought the subject of importation to their attention in a way that they could not possibly ignore. The player himself was a minor celebrity, who had kept goal for the Swifts and Small Heath, was a confirmed amateur and had a reputation for eccentricity since when playing he refused to confine his activities to his own goalmouth. All these qualities endeared him to Sudell, who realised that the player he had to poach had to be capable of stimulating the newspapers into noting his defection. How correct his judgement was can be gauged from these paragraphs taken from papers as far apart in distance and ideals as Blackburn and London: The Blackburn Times stated:- 'North End have imported W. C. Rose their latest acquisition not from Scotland or the English provinces, but from London itself and put him between the sticks in place of poor Joy, who was one of three genuine Prestonians left in the team'. 'Pilgrim' a London sportswriter was more concerned with the broader issues than mere parochial considerations. "Rose's appearance with North End will indeed open the eyes of the South to the advent of professionalism, for it is the first case of importation that has affected any club in the district. Unless proper explanations are forthcoming about Rose's appearance with the professionals, it will be a big nail in the coffin of an amicable settlement, as it shows clearly what the result would be, were professionalism established. The club possessing the most money would be able to buy the best talent or steal players from the Working Men's Clubs whenever they chose. It is surprising that so astute a body as Mr. Sudell's committee, should have selected such an unfortunate time to raise the South in arms but the Russians of North End having crossed the Ribble and advanced to the frontiers of civilised clubs with their importing tactics, it only remains for the South to show a bold front against invaders. The forthcoming general meeting will inevitably stamp its foot on any such professional practise in connection with the Association".

Pilgrim obviously misjudged the mood of the country or completely underestimated Major Sudell and his skilful and careful planning. On the 20th July, 1885, at a special meeting of the F.A. which lasted for only ten minutes, Dr. Morley and another of Sudell's supporters Mr. R. P. Gregson the Lancashire

F.A. Secretary carried North End's wishes to the letter. New rules were added to the National Cup competition among them being this important one. 'Professionals shall be allowed to compete in all Cup games provided they are qualified as follows:- In Cup matches by birth or residence for two years past within six miles of the ground or headquarters of the club for which they play'.

Within a month came confirmation of Sudell's new acceptability. He was elected to the committee of the F.A. in place of Birmingham's Mr. Corfield. The rebel was well and truly in the fold, or was he?

The extent of the implications of North End's tactics on both sides of the Border can be gathered by the Scottish Association's reaction. Ten days after the historic meeting of the F.A. they drafted a letter to all their players who were playing south of the Border. The threats in this correspondence were clear. The letter read:- 'Your name has been brought under the notice of this sub-committee of this Association on professionalism, as having left a club belonging to their body and that you are now playing with a club outside of their jurisdiction. They have therefore to inform you that under Rule 14 (and by-laws pertaining thereto) of the constitution, you cannot again play with any clubs within their jurisdiction without their permission'.

Fifty-eight players received the letter, fifty-seven of them were with Lancashire clubs, fifteen actually in Preston with eleven of these at North End. As the other four had been imported by Preston Zingari in a last ditch stand to compete with the Deepdale side for the public's patronage, (the other clubs in the town were fast fading into obscurity) the full ramifications of Sudell's policy can be seen. The list of individual players and the clubs they now served is worth examining since it demonstrates the rising forces in the game at the time. It was:-

J. Belger	South Western	Preston N. E.
James Bonner	Thornliebank	Accrington
George Bone	Kilmarnock Ath.	Halliwel
J. Brogan	Hearts	Bolton
G. Barnett	St. Bernards	Preston N. E.
R. Conway	Thornliebank	Accrington
Ben Caulfield	Johnstone Ath.	Burnley
Connell	Mauchline	Church
Crawford	Mauchline	Church
J. Douglas	Renfrew	Blackburn Rovers
G. Drummond	St. Bernards	Preston N. E.
G. Douglas	Hearts	Preston Zingari

T. Douglas	Hearts	Preston Zingari
Dan Friel	Vale of Lever	Burnley
J. Ferguson	Hearts	Preston N. E.
John Gordon	Port Glasgow Ath.	Preston N. E.
John Graham	Annbank	Preston N. E.
J. Goodall	Kilmarnock Ath.	Great Lever
Pat Gallocher	Johnstone Ath.	Padiham
David May	Kilmarnock Ath.	Great Lever
A. Houston	Kilmarnock Ath.	Halliwell
A. Hamilton	Kilmarnock Ath.	Halliwell
Jas. Harper	Beith	Blackburn Rovers
Archibald Hunter	Ayr	Aston Villa
John Inglis	Ayr	Great Lever
J. Kennedy	Third Lanark R. V.	Burnley
Peter Logan	Vale of Leven	Burnley
James Lucas	Kilmarnock	Great Lever
Hugh McIntyre	Rangers	Blackburn Rovers
Alex McIntock	Vale of Leven	Burnley
J. McAuley	Arthurlie	Burnley
J. McCrae	Vale of Leven	Burnley
W. McFertridge	Thornliebank	Padiham
Wm. McConnell	Johnstone Rovers	Padiham
R. McBeth	St. Bernards	Accrington
J. McKinnon	Hibernian	Bolton
A. McWhirter	Kilmarnock	Halliwell
James Petigrew	Kilmarnock Ath.	Halliwell
A. Robertson	St. Bernards	Preston N. E.
N. J. Ross	Hearts	Preston N. E.
J. Ross	Hearts	Preston N. E.
D. Russell	Stewart Cunningham	Preston N. E.
W. Ronaldson	Hearts	Burnley
J. Renwick	Hearts	Preston Zingari
David Ross	Hurlford	Halliwell
Jas. Richmond	Kilmarnock Portland	Darwen
H. Richmond	Kilmarnock Portland	Darwen
F. Suter	Partick	Blackburn Rovers
W. Struthers	Rangers	Bolton
J. Steel	Arbroath	Bolton
J. Stevenson	Arthurlie	Accrington
J. Scotland	Hearts	Preston Zingari
John Shiel	Johnstone Ath.	Burnley
Wm. Scobie	Hurlford	Halliwell
Sam Thomson	Lugar Boswell	Preston N. E.
D. Waugh	Northern	Great Lever
Archibald Webster	Kilmarchan	Burnley
J. Walkinshaw	Kilmarnock Ath.	Great Lever

By now Preston officials had joined their spectators in openly and vociferously claiming their superiority, styling themselves as champions of the world. The claim had considerable merit,

though it did upset two clubs in particular. Inevitably the first was Blackburn Rovers who had successive F.A. Cup wins to underline their own claims. Efforts to match the two clubs in 1884/85 had been unsuccessful, primarily because the Rovers were debarred from taking the field against a club who were not members of the F.A., but there were many in Preston that felt that the Rovers were avoiding them.

The other club offended by North End's claims were the Corinthians, the last bastion of true amateurism. Their players were drawn, by invitation only, from the Universities and Scholastic Academies. Their ranks were always studded with famous internationals, indeed they were very much akin to the present day Barbarians, though they took the field more often. Feelings on amateurism ran so high amongst their members, that their own rules forbade them from taking part in the F.A. Cup competition, yet conversely they had no qualms whatsoever about playing anywhere to teach a new emergent club a sharp lesson in the rudiments of the game. By Easter 1885 they had met North End twice with diverging results, losing 3-1 at Deepdale but winning 3-2 in London. So their visit to Deepdale had become the rubber match. It was an highly anticipated visit on the 6th April that packed fifteen thousand partisans into the ground. They left disappointed. The Corinthians were true monarchs of the game and though their victory was decided by a solitary goal, there was no doubt that it was a just result.

North End players remained unbowed. For retribution they beat the Wolves 3-0 and trounced Aston Villa by seven goals to two, astonishing victories against top class teams.

The Club's philosophy that if two Scots help create a good team, quadruple the number could make an immortal one, was further reflected in the team sheet. At inside right now was Jimmy Ross, Nick's younger brother, a stylish, creative player who could also score goals. When Nick left Edinburgh the younger Ross who was then seventeen had accompanied him and took up a place in North End's reserve side. It was not until the latter part of 1884 that he forced his way into the first team, a presence that was soon to make an immediate impact on the Club's play and to accommodate him Sam Thomson moved to centre-forward. Competition for places was fierce, not surprising when one considers that another Scot, Gillespie, had come down merely to provide reserve cover at inside forward and a fellow contryman Barnett seldom got a first team game.

If the signing of the younger Ross had been an auspicious one, it was soon followed by an even better one. A game at Great Lever on 28th March, 1885 brought to the attention of the

committee one John Goodall, a centre forward of such subtlety and craft that he was regarded as a missionary in a game that was still more muscular than skilful. Goodall had a cosmopolitan background having been born in London but raised in Ayrshire, his parents travels having been diverse enough to leave him with a younger brother Archie who was Irish. Both had played for Kilmarnock Burns and Kilmarnock Athletic and later joined the exodus south ending up at Great Lever. Seldom can two brothers have been as dis-similar. John was a keen student of the game, calculating every move and assessing each position carefully. In later years he was to become known as the founder of scientific football, the on field genius behind the scoring exploits of the legendary Steve Bloomer of Derby County and author of a book on the arts of the game. He was a man of integrity and a genuine hero, once plunging fully clothed into the River Derwent to foil an attempted suicide. People in the game regarded him as a gentleman, a claim that no one ever made on behalf of young Archie. A mean rumbustious half back hatchet man, Archie applied himself to the game with a ruthlessness that even David Russell would have envied. Tough and courageous he sought out opponents with similar ideas, not always on the field of play for he was once fined £5 for attacking a spectator and was usually to be found pursuing bitter personal vendettas that brought him a long disciplinary record. His off the field activities were as varied and as entertaining. He became player manager of Glossop when they were in the Football League, performed for a spell in the music halls, as a trick cyclist, became a candidate for the Derby Board of Guardians and when defeated by 153 votes by a Mrs. E. H. Simpson, retaliated by issuing a writ for slander. At Cup finals he was an entertainment in himself. Before the 1898 final he succeeded in wrecking the composure of his Derby team mates by absenting himself until minutes before the kick off. Dealing in final tickets he was left with a large number on his hands, and would not go to the dressing room before he had reduced his losses as much as was feasible. The following year he was dropped for insubordination. Both events did little to help the cause of his team.

Although both came to Deepdale, only John gained a regular place. Preston clearly had no need of another hard man, as can be judged from the stream of complaints that regularly flooded in about the vigour of their play. Robertson, Russell, Drummond and Nick Ross were singled out for special mention and none, it was true, were angels. On the other hand a great deal of jealousy

existed in the game and North End's success in the 1885/6 season was almost without precedent. When Blackburn Rovers had lost only two of their forty one games four years earlier, it had been forecast that the feat would never be equalled. North End's record improved this achievement and opponents were not long in identifying their vigour as being a contributory factor. The stories, of course, contained a great deal of exaggeration but there were several examples where the players did resort to flagrant misconduct. Most of the violence was reserved for the local derbies, particularly in Blackburn, for resentment between the towns was high. Preston's unsupported claims to be the best club in the world antagonised the Blackburn public. Rovers' Cup successes in competitions from which North End had been debarred from competing, were judged by Preston supporters to be worthless. With this background it is understandable that tension which led to misbehaviour arose. Not so easily explained was the violence displayed by many Preston players against Blackburn Olympic on 23rd January, 1886. Olympic were a small wiry side who outlasted larger opponents through sheer fitness. Although George Wilson was no longer included in the Preston side, details of his move to Deepdale had not been forgotten by Olympic and the Preston professionals took the game at Hole i'th Wall very seriously. So marked was the intensity of feeling that the first transgressor was none other than gentleman John Goodall. Over in the far corner he lost possession of the ball to J. T. Ward, Olympic's England full back. Untypically Goodall chose to charge Ward off the ball, having failed to realise that Ward was one Olympian not to be toyed with, for he was a resolute competitor who for a bet would undertake any feat. Ward had out run many local sprinters, beaten many a famed long jumper, leapt the Leeds-Liverpool canal for a bet of £5 and beaten many an opponent at wrestling and a local game known as buck. He returned Goodall's charge with interest, though in a manner the referee considered legal. Goodall did not agree and raised his fist and struck Ward. The incident was reported to the Lancs F.A. Soon after still simmering Goodall chose to exchange blows with Yates and the scene was set for a violent finale. Drummond, a really tough character came up to seek retribution on Ward, a frightening spectacle, for Ward would yield to no man. The fight was summarily stopped but the last act of violence was both senseless and unnecessary. Tiny Jimmy Costley, who had scored Olympic's winning goal in the Cup Final was a brilliant dribbler of the ball, a diminutive character who frustrated many a giant defender as he showed him the ball and then left him behind.

Russell was not a character to be treated in such a cavalier manner and when he was beaten by Costley turned, pursued him and deliberately and callously kicked him in the lower regions of the back. The referee whose lack of authority had allowed the incidents to occur, virtually unchecked, later attempted to vindicate some of the Preston players' actions on the grounds that the real culprit was Hunter who stirred up trouble with a tirade of frivolous and ridiculous appeals.

Unfortunately the incidents were not isolated. Not without reason was the Club earning their nickname of Proud. The haughty defenders resented being made to look foolish by tricky ball players, as evidenced again when they at last met the Rovers. Although Preston were well on top, Jimmy Brown gave Nick Ross a hard time with his close control and fierce acceleration. Like Russell, Ross was not a man to be trifled with and his threats to Brown were audible around the ground. It took him until the closing minutes to carry them out but when he did he kicked the little man so hard, that he had to be rushed to the infirmary and did not play again for two months. North End won this torrid game 4-2.

This dark side to Preston's play was never necessary. The team was so far ahead of all but a very small number of sides which they met, that they could have gained comfortable victories without recourse to physical violence. Goodall had brought a great creativity to the side, master minding the attack from centre forward and Gordon's unique accuracy with the cross was trouble for any defence. Dewhurst, Ross and Thomson were all stylish goalscorers, footballers first, blunt instruments second. The collective forward line was fast, fluid and productive and the defence, even without their skulduggery, was dour and impenetrable.

Conversely though, no tangible reward accrued again, which was difficult to fathom in an unbeaten season. Legislation, the bane of the Club's existence, again conspired to cheat them since despite the hard work put in by Major Sudell the rules had still not been altered sufficiently to fully legalise the practises conducted by North End. The F.A. Challenge Cup competition was a prime example. On 12th December, 1885 five thousand excited spectators at Pike's Lane, the home of Bolton Wanderers, greeted the following teams made up predominantly with professionals. BOLTON - Trainer, Powell, Parkinson, Glaister, Steel, Holden, Gregory, Davenport, Struthers, Hough, Parkinson. PRESTON - Rose, Haworth, Ross N, Woodruffe, Russell, Drummond, Gordon, Houghton, Ross J, Dewhurst, Dempsey.

The new legislation had not, contrary to Morley's beliefs, curtailed the spate of protests that followed a cup tie for now a new type of part time employee had been created, one who spent his time checking the background of opposing players, to ensure that their qualifications were in order. Accordingly immediately after the game Mr. Sloan of Bolton handed the referee protests about the eligibility of N. J. Ross and Drummond. Major Sudell retorted by protesting over the inclusion of Jack Powell.

The game itself was, despite the closeness of the 3-2 scoreline, a resounding victory for North End. They dominated the first half, and scored two fine goals by counter attacking with skill. The first goal was a curious affair. Steel accidentally handled the ball, and as was customary, acknowledged the fact, expecting North End to take the free kick. Instead Dewhurst siezed the ball and culminated a short run with a fierce shot. Soon after a great ball winning tackle by Drummond stopped Steel again. The ball was quickly moved to the younger Ross who struck an oblique shot superbly on the inside of the post. Trainer, unconventionally tried to save the day by hacking the ball clear, but the referee was adamant that it had crossed the line and stuck to his decision despite a welter of hooting from the terraces.

Following the turn around an unexpected spell of Bolton pressure created a Struthers goal, but this inroad into their lead was immediately cancelled by North End when Dewhurst and Dempsey produced a fine left wing break. Jack Powell seeing the danger had no hesitation in flooring Dewhurst but this left him powerless to prevent the supporting Dempsey gathering the loose ball and hammering it into the goal. From then Bolton were a beaten side and only a last minute scramble brought them any consolation.

A week later the Cup committee met to consider the protests. That against Nick Ross was not sustained, but Drummond's case was more serious. The rules drew a firm line between temporary absences away from home and the acceptance of employment for the purposes of earning a living, when considering the residential qualification. When it was proved that Drummond had worked 167 hours in his native Edinburgh the case was found against North End and they were again expelled from the competition. The legalised chicanery did not profit Bolton, for a week later the case against Powell was found proved and Bolton joined Preston in the banishment. Gallingly for both clubs this left the way open for rivals Blackburn Rovers to take the Cup for the third consecutive time.

Not even the Lancashire Cup, then a very important competition, came North End's way, though the circumstances

again are worthy of explanation. Anxious to prove their worth against any opposition, the Club had again undertaken fixtures with the Corinthians and in November had shaken London's cherished supremacy by winning by three goals to one at Kennington Oval. The return was scheduled for 19th December, 1885, a date that clashed with Lancashire's fixture at Nottingham. Normally that would have had little effect on North End's affairs because the majority of their players possessed no county qualification. Therefore when the Lancashire side was found to contain Haworth, Dewhurst and Goodall, it caused the Club some consternation. Here further insight can be gauged about the skill of Sudell which made him such an outstanding club Chairman. A football statesman like Dr. Morley would have been honoured to release his players, but Sudell's only consideration was North End. The first step was easy, Goodall's qualification was not in order and this fact was communicated to the selectors. The problem of the other two players was more vexed. Both were Prestonians by birth. A fine right back, Robert Henry Haworth was part of the re-birth of local soccer interest which had been spurred by the example of so many fine players for youngsters to model themselves on, a fact which was further justification for the importation of those players. Although only twenty, Haworth was a strapping thirteen stone and was almost six feet tall, as befitted a former Excelsior rugby forward. He had been invited to join North End as a result of an impressive display in a medal competition held at Deepdale and was soon appearing in the reserves where he began to forge a great partnership with the even younger Bob Holmes. Although they were parted by Haworth's graduation, they were soon to become a renowned first team combination who twice appeared in this capacity for their country. Indeed their names were inseparable for many years, though when their playing days were over their paths were very different. Haworth qualified as a solicitor and worked in the town. Holmes (what heresay) became trainer of Blackburn Rovers.

If most officials would have been cowed by authority, Sudell did not number among their ranks. Two days before the match both Haworth and Dewhurst sent notice to the county selectors that they would be unavailable because of working commitments, and that replacements would have to be found. On the day itself these sides took the field at Deepdale. PRESTON - Rose, Haworth, Ross, Robertson, Ferguson, Graham, Gordon, Goodall, Thomson, Dewhurst, Drummond. CORINTHIANS - Mills-Roberts, A. M. Walters, P. M. Walters, Amos, Holden-White, Squire, Spilsbury, Brown, Lindley, Cursham, Cobbold.

What price the pressures of work! It was thought fitting that these local lads should take their places in a game that was a classic encounter from start to finish and one that should rank with the epic games of all time. The Corinthians were a remarkable outfit. Walter Cobbold's skill on the ball was only rivalled by Jimmy Brown and experience had shown that this type of player occasionally discomfited even the strong men in North End's defence. Within twenty three minutes the Corinthians were two up, Lindley after ten minutes then Cobbold were the scorers. Forced to attack somewhat desperately North End found the Walters brothers thoroughly deserving of their reputation for hard uncompromising play. For a spell the controlled, disciplined craftsmanship that was a feature of North End's style disintegrated as time and again it was mastered. Even so a furious fifteen minutes before the half closed left the score line at three goals each. First Gordon floated over another immaculate cross and brave Fred Dewhurst leapt through a wall of Corinthian defenders to head firmly into the net. Then sheer pressure finally eroded the desperate resistance in the Corinthian defence. Mills-Roberts brilliantly turned away a point blank shot. P. M. Walters flung himself fearlessly in front of the volley struck from the rebound, but the two Corinthians were in position to stop half the Preston forward line from rushing the loose ball over the line. Within minutes Dewhurst's trusty head struck again, carefully steering home a teasing corner from Roberts. Almost on half-time came the retaliation. Cobbold and Cursham carved a swathe through Preston's entire right flank, left Rose in their wake and made goal scoring a formality.

Nor did the second half disrupt the end to end pattern of the game, though both sides wisely paid more attention to their defensive duties. Only one goal was scored and fittingly it was a magnificent effort worthy of the occasion. Haworth deep in defence stopped Cursham's rush towards goal with a carefully executed tackle. Moving forward he fed Goodall who commenced with great coolness to dribble straight through the entire Corinthian defence, an almost unheard of feat. So destructive was his run that the final pass to Dewhurst left the inside man with only one opponent between him and goal, Cobbold, who had spotted the danger and covered like a great player should. Spotting his chance Dewhurst did not hesitate and before Cobbold could tackle he leaned back and struck the ball hard and true. It bent around the Corinthian defender and flew away out of the reach of an unsighted Mills-Roberts, to give North End a 4-3 victory.

Games like this cemented the ties between the two clubs, and

the way in which the last true amateurs accepted the often despised professionals as men of character and calibre, was a measure of the regard the once great champions showed their successors. Fred Dewhurst was accorded the great honour of being elected a member of Corinthians, an honour that was a source of great pride in Preston. It also demonstrated the widening gulf between the towns of Preston and Blackburn. When the Preston Guardian was rash enough to declare that it was the first such honour bestowed on a Lancastrian, the Blackburn Times was quick to point out that Doc Greenwood of the Rovers had been a founder member of the Corinthians.

The classic played against the Corinthians would have been sufficiently note-worthy even without Dewhurst's hat trick, but it was to involve North End in yet another clash with authority. Naturally enough the Lancashire F.A. were more than a little upset and asked Haworth and Dewhurst to account for their presence at Deepdale, when they had both categorically assured that body that they were unable to take part in the county match. Dewhurst replied that he was prevented from leaving the school at which he taught until the forenoon because of the death of a fellow staff member. Haworth answered that he was forbidden under threat of dismissal, from taking any part of the morning off and hence was unable to travel. Evidence though was submitted from other parties that the actions of Haworth's employer had been instigated by Major Sudell. The committee of the Lancs. F.A. rejected the explanations put forward, as a charade and admonished both players and their club.

Although the findings were undoubtedly just, Sudell was not a man to accept the judgement without a reply. Preston and the Rovers were the most powerful clubs under the jurisdiction of the Lancs. F.A. and that body needed to retain their goodwill, since their entire income arose from the proceeds of the semi-finals and final of their Cup competition. Sudell retaliated to the warning he had received by demanding that since the official body took the proceeds they should also pay the players' wages, a request that fell on deaf ears at the County F.A. headquarters.

Again Sudell demonstrated his remarkable talent for applying pressure to officialdom by forming the most unlikely alliances. Drawn against North End in the semi-final were Blackburn Rovers and again Sudell began negotiations with Dr. Morley that produced a surprising agreement. The Rovers had few professionals on their books, so North End's complaint hardly applied to them, but for several years they had nursed a grievance of their own. The necessity of playing in the earlier round of the Lancashire competition against obscure clubs, restricted the

money Rovers could earn from lucrative friendly games. Therefore they had no objection in joining Sudell in another exercise of gun boat diplomacy. Details of a secret intrigue were leaked to the Preston Guardian. The tie could be played by the club's reserve sides whilst on the same day the first teams would meet in a friendly at Leamington Road, which would draw all the local support and ruin the Lancs. F.A.'s cherished takings. To prevent such a farce the Lancs. F.A. were forced to delay the game, on varying pretexts, from January to March, before an adequate compromise could be reached.

When the game was finally played the clubs had already met twice. On the first occasion a first half goal from Sam Thomson won the game for Preston, though Herbie Arthur was forced to perform miracles in the Rovers' goal. The second time was the game in which Ross left Brown in need of hospital treatment and ended in a 4-1 victory for North End.

Not all the scheming and machinations of the day were the prerogative of Major Sudell. The Rovers were well aware of their blatant inferiority and decided to resort to the normal procedure of protesting about the eligibility of the opposition. Careful research proved that no less than five of the North End players were not correctly qualified and a doubt even arose about a sixth, Nick Ross. To the surprise of many, the Rovers did not adopt the tactics popular at the time, of keeping their finding secret until the game had been played. Instead they aired their knowledge freely, inquiring through the medium of the local press whether North End were going to play these men and almost certainly have the tie awarded to the Rovers no matter what the result. When the reason behind their action became apparent to a few enlightened Prestonians, North End were nursing an unbeaten record and hoped to become the first major club to go through an arduous fifty odd match season with this record intact. As previous holders of the invincibility title, the Rovers were jealous of North End's achievements and wanted to halt this successful run by forcing Preston to field a weakened side. Sudell had no hesitation. Although he knew that the Rovers would inevitably be awarded the tie, Sudell played his full strength side on 6th March, 1886 and actually scratched from the competition while the game was in progress, ludicrously giving as the official reason that his full back Haworth was injured and could take no part in the game. All that mattered was the unbeaten record and this was preserved because North End were leading by four goals to two, when the match was called off. So carefully was the Preston campaign planned that any risk which might jeopardise the record was kept to a minimum. For instance games outside the

county were virtually abandoned and not only Rovers, but other clubs now began to join the campaign to lower the Preston colours. From the Midlands came the steady clamour that Preston were afraid to venture there. It even ruffled Sudell sufficiently for him to take a gamble. On 17th April, 1886 he risked the record of P 52, W 49, D 3, Gls F, 267, A 49, by visiting Wolverhampton. His team though made the risk look a slight one, winning by four goals to one. Even the goal against did not fall to a Wolves' players but to George Bakewell of Derby County an unexpected guest.

In fact the unbeaten record was to be destroyed within a matter of days of that result, ironically at Deepdale against neighbouring opponents Accrington. On Easter Monday 1886, to the surprise of the football world, North End went down by three goals to two and soon lost another one to the side that was to prove their jinx for seasons to come, West Bromwich Albion. If this somewhat tarnished what had appeared to be an unsurpassable record, no doubt any other club would have been delighted to finish with a record of P 64, W 59, D 3, L 2, Gls F 318, A 60. One last ironic event remained in the 1885/86 season. North End's persistence to achieve the legalising of professionalism had led the F.A. to introduce a Gentlemen v Players game. North End had only one representative selected, Fred Dewhurst, for the gentleman.

Although Preston's superiority was now acknowledged by all but the most chauvinistic, the results had not yet been reflected in the Deepdale display cabinet. Accordingly before the 1886/87 season began, the Club increased their endeavours to try and win the cherished F.A. Cup. To this end they engaged a Cup tie goalkeeper, a man who was not willing to play regularly but was prepared to make North End his choice so far as that season's competition was concerned. Several of the clubs had spotted this flaw in the rules and had contracted the services of men who only turned out when the Cup was being contested. Generally they were amateurs who were not willing to move home, yet sought Cup glory with stronger clubs than their own. North End's new assistant, Arthur Wharton, was no exception to this rule, though what Billy Rose thought of the situation is open to conjecture. Born in Trinidad 'Darky' Wharton was probably the first coloured player to make an impact on the soccer scene. An outstanding racing cyclist he was also a sprinter of great merit who in 1886 and 1887 won the A.A.A. 100 yard championship. With Rose in goal the Club opened their season in Scotland and to the astonishment, and secret delight of many, lost by four goals to two to the Third Lanark Rifle Volunteers. There was great

rejoicing in many towns in Lancashire but not in Preston, and local papers carried reports that Sudell 'was not amused' and that £20 per man was not going to be a feature of North End's new season', a reference to the very high winning bonuses which the Club had been paying.

The gloating was short lived. Annoying the Preston players was like attempting to count a tiger's teeth. Seven days after the defeat in Scotland, they retaliated by starting a run which achieved the greatest feats the football world will ever record. Within five weeks of the defeat at Third Lanark, North End beat Bolton 2-1 at Deepdale, Burslem Port Vale 7-0 at Burslem, Halliwell at Preston 3-1, Walsall Town at Walsall by 6-2 and interspaced with these games were wins away against the Cup holders Blackburn Rovers - both by six goals to one and a memorable win on 25th September against the Scottish Cup holders Queens Park, again by six goals to one. Since in the previous season they had beaten both runners up West Bromwich Albion and Renton by seven goals, it was now obvious that North End were supreme.

Seldom can a city have experienced the gloom that North End left hanging over Glasgow. The Scottish Athletic Journal under the heading 'a national disaster', stated 'Ichabod must be written over the portals of Hampden. The Queens Park in its whole history have never sustained such a crushing blow, time was when no goal could be taken from it, but that holycon period can only be remembered by the old inhabitants. During the twenty years the club has been in existence no club could say that they had taken six goals of the Queens Park. That pleasure has been reserved for the Preston North End'.

Without the necessity of preserving an unbeaten record restricting their caution, Preston had few qualms about making their presence felt on scorelines and scores that would have been more appropriate to other sports, were run up at every opportunity. There was though an inexplicable fall from the previous season's invincibility, which frequency of their mammoth scores camouflaged. Local rivals Bolton (2-1) and Blackburn (2-0) in Suter's benefit game lowered their colours, though both results were revenged later. The Rovers having already been beaten twice by six goals to one, were demoralised in the Lancashire Cup tie on the 9th October, 1886, the importance of the occasion being emphasised by a 7-1 win. They were the fortunate ones. On Christmas Day Bolton were coldy and efficiently beaten on a snow covered ground losing by twelve goals to one. Even that fate was better than that which befell Notts County who had done nothing to warrant North End's

antagonism, but still were mesmerised into conceding fourteen goals.

No other destination than Deepdale appeared likely for both the F.A. and Lancashire Cups. The teams white shirts began to sport the feathers of the Prince of Wales, a consequence of the game played at Kennington Oval in aid of the London Charities. Sudell and Nick Ross were presented to the Prince who was later reported to be amused by the gesture, it was also said that he was delighted with the team's success. As befitted a team purporting royal patronage they were not deterred by any opposition. In the F.A. Cup they took on and defeated Scotland's best in successive rounds, Queens Park by 3-0, Renton by 2-0. The achievements were marred by a serious riot at Hampden. A very bad foul by the younger Ross on Harrower, brought the crowd over the barriers looking for vengeance. An eye witness Mr. N. L. Jackson, who does not appear to have been favourably disposed to North End wrote:- "Ross junior nearly met his desserts on Saturday. He got roughly handled and would have been half killed if it had not been for Arnott and Gow. The mob were clamouring for his blood. I have never seen a Scottish crowd so exasperated. Mr. Chas. Campbell, the great half back addressed the crowd and tried to induce it to disperse. Ross blubbered like a baby and shook with terror. He will never again put a foot on Hampden Park, the whole team are blamed for his act. The North End managers should dispense with the services of Ross. Mr. Sudell at the dinner after the match apologised for Ross's conduct".

Fortunately for Ross, Walter Arnott, Queens Park's cheery international full back was well disposed to Preston. He had only the previous week been sporting the lilywhite as a guest player and the hospitality he had received was soon repaid as he interceded with the spectators on Ross's behalf. After the game there was a near riot at Central station as a mob tried unsuccessfully to storm the barriers and attack the Preston party. This time it was the quick thinking of the railway authorities that staved off mayhem. They spread the word that Ross had been arrested and taken to the Strathbungo lock-up.

By the time the Club called their Annual General Meeting in March 1887 the committee of Messrs. Suddell, Woods, Woodhouse, Brown, Pomfret, Treasurer T. Banks and Secretary Fred Dewhurst, were able to paint a rosy picture, pointing out that the Club had reached the final of the Lancashire Cup and within the week should have reached the final of the English Cup, though Sudell cautioned prophetically that there was many a slip between cup and lip. The financial situation was beginning to reflect the strain placed on the Club's affairs by the payment of

high remuneration.

Although the receipts were up to £2,396 from the previous years £2,217, expenditure had risen to £2,897. This figure did include some extraordinary items such as a final payment of £216, which made the stands the Club's property and a £50 gratuity to the old centre forward Belger who had his playing career terminated by a broken leg received in December 1884, in a game against Great Lever. The deficit had reduced the Club's cash in hand to £156.9s.1½d, and consequently there were doubts expressed about the wisdom of starting to undertake games outside their home county. In reply Sudell expressed his view that the travel expenses were not unreasonable and was so confident of the future success of his team that he generated optimism.

The minimum charge for admission was still only 3d although in 1887 for the visits of Aston Villa and Queens Park this was increased to 6d. The reason put forward for this 100% rise was that it would keep out the rougher element of spectators! Another indication that there is little new in football, and Coventry City in 1981 took a step which was first taken nearly a century earlier. Hooliganism, crowd disorders, cynical fouls and excessive reactions by players after scoring a goal, were all features of the game one hundred years ago and contrary to what many think they are not products of the modern game. Incidentally, until the mid eighties ladies were usually admitted to games free, but this concession was withdrawn at Deepdale in 1885 following the game played on Easter Monday when it was estimated that 2,000 ladies had attended.

On Boxing Day 1886, following a great 12-1 victory on Christmas Day over Bolton, North End had been unaccountably beaten by five goals to one by West Bromwich Albion on their opponents ground. The pitch had been covered in snow and North End were replete from the Christmas festivities, so the result had been discounted. Casuists might have also pointed to the fact that North End's previous opponents in December Queens Park, Renton and the Old Foresters had been beaten comfortably but not by the normal Preston margins, and whilst West Bromwich Albion had distinctly embarrassed them, such teams were few. No side in the game could have gone into a semi-final tie as favourite with North End their opponents, but West Brom had a unique advantage.

The tie on 5th March, 1887, only three days after North End had won a hard fought game with Old Carthusians, was beset by drama from the start. West Brom's giant goalkeeper Bob Roberts was delayed on the train and did not arrive in time for the kick off. Albion took the field without him, a decision that was soon

rewarded when a commotion was observed in the crowd and Roberts who had changed on the train, dashed onto the field with a huge bellow. From then on his performance was as dramatic as his entrance. He plucked crosses from the air with disdain, flung his massive frame around like a gazelle and dived into the most hectic scrimmages without fear. In front of him his full backs H. Green and Aldridge gave the performance that turned the game. Their crisp clear tackling nullified the famed Preston passing and their robust shoulder charges thwarted all attempts by Goodall and Ross to dribble through the Albion ranks. Not that Nick Ross allowed his team to be intimidated. Robust tackles left Woodhall and Bayliss hobbling but West Brom were always in command. Pearson and Paddock obtained good goals and the Throstles went through to the Final by three goals to one.

The failure to reach the Cup Final brought despondency to Preston and the tough line critics, just as they do to-day, were quick to make known their views, one of which was that 'burdened by training every day the professionals were not able to stand the strain'. Within a week the Club's stock sank so low that they dropped from the pinnacle of invincibility and were made underdogs for the Lancashire Cup Final with Bolton, a team they had beaten twelve-one earlier in the season. In doing so the odds makers completely underestimated the resilience of the team. Whenever they had previously suffered a reverse they had responded immediately. They did so again winning the final on 26th March by three goals to nil, and so brought the first Cup back to Deepdale. Their welcome on returning from Pike's Lane was rapturous. The crowds lined Fishergate, the band played Handel's 'See the conquering heroes come' and the players were carried shoulder high to Fulwood Park Club where fireworks were lit and the celebrations continued well into the night.

At the end of the 1886/87 season North End had played no less than 63 games having been involved in 64 in the previous season.

Success after so many disappointments served only to harden the cold, ruthless edge of North End's professionalism. The players had never been reluctant to humiliate the opposition and now not the slightest advantage would be missed in furthering the Preston cause. They knew well that more than one town would glory in their slightest failure and were determined never to allow them any reason to take delight at Preston's expense. On the 15th October, 1887, their names were etched indelibly into the annals of the game when they mercilessly destroyed Hyde United. Hyde had not been expected to provide much opposition, even though the fact that it was the first round of the Cup, might have resulted

in some bringing out the old cliché about the Cup being a great leveller. The gulf between the sides was demonstrated in the scoreline, the scorers, in order being:- Dewhurst, Drummond, J. Ross, Dewhurst, Drummond, Graham, Thomson, Gordon, J. Ross, J. Ross, Thomson, Gordon, half-time 12-0 - Thomson, Thomson, J. Ross, Thomson, J. Ross, J. Ross, Gordon, Russell, J. Ross, Gordon, Gordon, Dewhurst, J. Ross, Goodall, full-time 26-0. It was as well for John Goodall that he claimed the last goal. What might history have said about a centre forward who failed to score in a twenty six goal win? To put the record straight however, he was the chief creative force on view that day. The Preston side was - Addison, Howarth, Ross N, Russell, Thomson, Graham, Gordon, Ross J, Goodall, Dewhurst, Drummond. The Hyde Team was - Bunyan, Gregory, J. H. Hall, Hurst, Bowers, Wilson, J. Hall, Presdee, Robinson, Wood, Hopkinson.

There may have been another participant in the game against Hyde, football's first substitute, albeit an unofficial and illegal one. Immediately following the third goal, which surprisingly was not scored until the seventeenth minute, Bowers the Hyde centre half went off with a sprained arm and did not return. It is recorded that at the start of the second half another Hyde player took his place. Since the roving centre half was the fulcrum of the side, it is inconceivable that another Hyde player did not move into the position when Bowers left and so it would seem that North End permitted the opposition to make an illegal substitution. If such a generous gesture does not appear to have been typical of the North End of the period, it should be remembered that they had a twelve goal lead at the time.

Although for most of the game Hyde were penned in their area and were unable to get the ball beyond the half way line, they did attack in the opening minute, before Goodall's third minute corner found the head of Dewhurst and the goal rush was on. After that their attacks appear to have been somewhat curtailed, although the Weekly Herald reporter observes at one point in the first half that "for a moment the Hyde forwards got so near to Addison that the custodian had to clear his citadel". Addison's next action was early in the second half when he had to take his first goal kick. Even this brought no relief to Hyde, the keeper kicked it so far upfield that Thomson slid it home for the fourteenth goal. They could think themselves fortunate that Billy Rose was not in goal. He would have been up there with the attack. Early in the game when the goal rush first started, Hyde began to resort to rough tactics to quell the tide. Wisely they soon decided that it was clearly unwise to annoy the opposition.

From a good vantage point the under employed Addison had ample time to reflect on the strange sequence of events, that involved him (albeit barely) in an historic victory. Billy Rose had left the Club and his replacement Jim Trainer from Bolton Wanderers was not eligible for the Cup competition. Trainer, a Welshman, who was later described by J. H. Catton of the Athletic News as "the most consistently clever goalkeeper who ever stood between the posts", had begun his first class career with Everton. However, a three week spell in which the regular goalkeeper Lindsay was preferred, was sufficient to convince the confident Trainer that his future lay elsewhere. He had joined Bolton Wanderers where his capabilities became renowned and despite his participation in the 12-1 Christmas Day debacle, Preston were soon casting covetous glances in his direction. How correct was their judgement, was soon to be proved by a near decade of service for his country and his being named 'The Prince of Goalkeepers'.

The necessity to field a reserve goalkeeper in the Cup competitions was scarcely a handicap to North End. In the Lancashire Cup they defeated Earlestown Wanderers by nineteen goals. At half time, to even the game, North End re-arranged their side so that the forwards defended and the defenders attacked. The poacher turned gamekeeper Nick Ross was in his element in his old role and scored eight goals. Earlier that season, nine of the Preston side were selected to play for the county side, on the same day that the Club had arranged a Lancashire Cup tie with Hurst. Refusing to postpone the game, they fielded the reserves, who declined the offer of the two remaining first team players to turn out, on the grounds that if they did it might weaken them! Many supporters believed that the Club's reserves were the only side that could extend the first team, because apart from losing the first game of the season to Hibs, they were never threatened. To support the theory the reserve side played in the two New Year games, when the first team were sent to the Palace Hotel Southport, to prepare for the vital Cup-tie against Aston Villa. On 31st December, 1887 the side of - Addison, Holmes, Livesey, Ferguson, Goring, Dempsey, Turner, Edwards, Booth, Gillespie and Heaton drew with Cowlairs. Two days later with the veteran Smalley playing instead of Turner, they beat Hearts by four goals to one. To bring perspective to the achievements, the Scottish club had beaten Blackburn Rovers on the previous day by five goals to three.

The F.A. Cup competition was that year divided into two series. The first (three rounds) was against local opposition. The second (two rounds before the semi-final) was for the survivors of

the first series and was not regionalised. The football authorities even contrived to create an unprecedented additional handicap for North End. After the first round win against Hyde, they met and defeated Everton, who had beaten Bolton Wanderers in the previous round. They followed this emphatic six-nil victory by defeating Halliwell by four goals to nil in the third round. Meanwhile, Bolton had objected to the inclusion in the Everton team of Weir from Third Lanark and Smalley from Lostock Hall and additionally contended that some of the players were professionals, who had been registered as amateurs in order to circumvent the residential rule. The F.A. upheld the appeal and ordered Preston to replay the second round game against different opposition, despite the fact that they had already played and won their third round game. By now North End were inured to F.A. decisions and accepted the judgement philosophically. Retribution was reserved for the field of play and on 10th December, Wanderers were defeated and dejected by a score of nine goals to one.

The first round of the second series against Aston Villa at Perry Bar on 7th January, 1888, was a huge attraction. Over twenty six thousand spectators (far more than was safe) packed the ground. As both clubs subsequently observed, the admission charge should have been increased so that the same proceeds would have resulted from a smaller attendance, but safety standards would have been higher. It was reported that queues formed outside the Villa ground from 10.30 a.m. on the morning of the game. Charges for admission were £1 for the best seats and 10 shillings for three other rows in the press box, which had been commandeered for the big attraction. Seats in the remainder of the grandstand cost five shillings. These prices should be considered along with the average weekly wage at that time which was no more than one pound. From the start the crowd spilled onto the pitch in a manner that jeopardised the prospects of the game being completed. Play was soon halted by the solid masses encroaching on the field but after seven minutes delay, the game was restarted. Almost immediately Villa took the lead through their famous Scottish captain Archie Hunter, the excitement generated by the goal once more bringing the crowds onto the field of play. This time order was restored more easily and Villa sensing their chance, surged forward again. Green defeated Ferguson (the deputy goalkeeper) again, but this time the goal was disallowed because of offside. From then on Preston's superior skills were brought into play. Five minutes before the interval Drummond on the left wing rounded Coulton, centred and Goodall scored. At half-time it appeared that the game must

be abandoned. The crowd again spilled onto the pitch and restoring order appeared impossible. That it was possible to restart at all was solely due to the presence of three off-duty Hussars, who pushed the crowd back, though as the Herald reporter observed "a Hussar in undress uniform without sword or belt and mounted on a sorry looking cab horse is not a sight calculated to frighten anybody".

When play was resumed Nick Ross, the Preston captain, was clearly not pleased with the situation and before play was many minutes old he approached the referee to object about the frequent incursions by the spectators onto the field of play. The official, Mr. Clegg asked Villa's captain for his view, but Hunter, conscious that the crowd was predominantly in Villa's favour, refused to back Ross's objections. North End soon had no cause to be displeased with Hunter's decision. After nineteen minutes Jimmy Ross gave them the lead and six minutes later Goodall clinched the game. From then on the only threat to North End was the crowd who were standing right up to the touchlines so that players taking throw-ins had to do so from the first row of the spectators. Powerless and frustrated the Preston officials could only watch the clock and hope that no hothead would precipitate an invasion. The belated arrival of a body of mounted police finally saved the day and North End had gained an epic 3-1 victory. As a result of stoppages to clear spectators from the pitch the first half of the game had lasted eighty minutes.

Scruples about the way Cup-ties were won were certainly not a prerogative at the time and it came as a surprise to no-one that Villa were contesting the result, alleging that the two captains had agreed to treat the result as a friendly when consulted by the referee. The official Mr. Clegg would have no part in such belated trickery and refused to agree to any Villa appeal but he pointed out that Preston had protested and even though they had subsequently won, the protest must be considered by the F.A. Fortunately common sense prevailed and the result was allowed to stand, permitting North End to advance. They did, right to the final itself by beating Sheffield Wednesday three-one and Crewe five-nil.

The grizzly spectre of a further appeal arose during the semi-final with Crewe, which was played on Everton's ground. Crewe officials took objection to the state of the pitch and announced their intention of appealing. Even though they had nothing to fear from such a groundless protest the North End officials were by now thoroughly annoyed by the whole procedure and they quickly agreed to play a friendly game immediately preceding the Final in consideration of the Crewe officials desisting from

pressing the appeal.

The composition of the Preston side had undergone two important changes by this time, with Trainer ineligible and Addison not considered adequate the reserve half back Ferguson had become the Cup-tie goalkeeper and a source of embarrassment to North End. In November the deficiency had been remedied in spectacular fashion by an invitation to an old antagonist Robert Herbert Mills-Roberts of the Corinthians. Despite the widely different viewpoints of the two clubs a remarkable understanding and respect existed and Mills-Roberts was delighted to accept. Born in Penmachno in North Wales he had been educated at Friars School, Bangor and the University of Aberystwyth. Adept at both rugby and soccer he had represented Aberystwyth in the Welsh Cup until in 1882 he had gone to the teaching hospital of St. Thomas's qualifying M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., in 1887. Although only five feet eight and a half inches tall and a mere eleven stone he was agile and brave and never afraid to risk his surgeon's hands. North End were in fact the fifth club for which he was currently active, the others being Barnes, the Crusaders, the Casuals and the Corinthians. Accepting an appointment as house surgeon at the Birmingham General Hospital, considerably lessened his potential travelling commitments, though as a Cup-tie goalkeeper his services were strictly limited by F.A. rules.

The other change was predictable in so far as it had been unanimously accepted that Bob Holmes was sure to make the grade. The surprise was that he should do so at such an early stage of his career, for he was then only nineteen and as a railway employee in Preston, often had to play having gone over twenty four hours without sleep. This did not curtail his exuberance and the committee promoted him to the side at wing half in place of Robertson who was eight years his senior.

There was only one team in the country which North End had even the remotest fear of meeting and sure enough that side won their semi-final to become the Club's Kennington Oval opponents on 24th March. The old bogey West Brom had dogged North End's fortunes for some time and they even managed to continue the embarrassment before the final by booking their side into the same hotel, the Euston, where North End were staying. Unlike the Preston side who were kept together at Freshfield for the week before the game, West Brom allowed their players to remain at home and most experts agreed that they appeared the more relaxed side before the game, though of course they were also the more experienced having been in the Final the previous year.

Since the previous year's clash, West Brom too had rejuvenated their side, particularly by the introduction of Billy Basset, a seventeen year old right winger destined to become an all time great. It was Basset who produced the skill that brought the crucial first goal after seventeen minutes, Mills-Roberts beat out a viscous shot from Woodhall that threatened to pass below the cross bar, Basset siezed onto the ball, tricked Graham superbly and rolled the ball into the path of Bayliss, Mills-Roberts left his goal to kick clear, but missed the ball completely and Bayliss was left with the formality of the final touch.

From then on there was only one team in the game and only one man of the match. Bob Roberts, the goalkeeper who so often reserved his best performances for North End, surpassed himself. As Preston swept forward time after time, Jimmy Ross and Goodall were left open mouthed in amazement as Roberts threw himself around to defy them. It was not until the fiftieth minute that he was beaten and North End equalised. Drummond centred from the right, Goodall headed the ball back across the goal and Dewhurst scrambled it through. Roberts would probably have reached it but Dewhurst employed a legitimate tactic of the time and shouldered him out of the way.

In the entire game North End's pressure was so marked that Albion could muster only eight shots, yet two crossed the line. The second which won the Cup came midway through the second half. Pearson and Wilson effected a skilful raid down the left. Wilson centred and Woodhall hit the ball on the volley, it struck the inside of the post and rolled slowly across the line and West Brom went ahead two-one. Demoralised Preston could do little to retrieve the situation. In any case the day clearly belonged to big Bob Roberts. Seldom can a man have been more deserving of a Cup winners medal. North End were left to contemplate the vicissitudes of fate that, particularly in the shape of West Brom, played so many scurvy tricks upon them. They were a team recognised as the greatest in the game from John O'Groats to Lands End, yet the only trophy they had won was the Lancashire Cup, and that only once.

This was not a situation that Major Sudell appreciated, yet the North End record in season 1887/88 is remarkable. Between 18th August 1887 and 10th March 1888 they played forty two consecutive games, winning them all and scoring 241 goals but conceding only forty six. The full playing record was P. 70, W 59, D 4, L 7, Gls F 316, A 81 and the season lasted from 13th August 1887 to 6th August 1888, with no less than twelve games being played in May.

Chapter 2

Invincibles

The year of 1888 was an important milestone in the development of football. William McGregor a Scotsman and a Director of Aston Villa resident in Stoke, wrote to the five top clubs in England, his own club Aston Villa, North End, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion asking for their views on the formation of a League. All were willing to support the idea agreeing with McGregor that the establishment of a League would bring order to the chaotic tangle of prestige friendly and Cup fixtures. The idea met with resistance, particularly in the South where the concept, if not the practise of amateurism, still prevailed. The more pragmatic Northern and Midland clubs were less inclined to outmoded idealism. As a result of meetings and negotiations among the leading officials, the first in London on the eve of the Preston North End and West Bromwich Albion Cup Final and the second in Manchester on Tuesday, 17th April, 1888, twelve clubs were elected to the newly formed league, Preston North End, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Everton, Accrington, Stoke City, Notts County, Derby County, Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion and Wolves. North End were among the number, for by common consent they were acknowledged at that time as the game's greatest exponents, though in the absence of a major competition recognised by all, it was difficult to prove this. Recognition of the value placed upon the acumen of William Sudell was his election as first honorary treasurer of the League. He had never attempted to court popularity, but the hard headed business men who ran the other clubs, were well aware of the value of a character who was shrewd and had a profound knowledge of all aspects of football. joining the chosen few who would provide a focal point for the game. Some clubs like Blackburn Rovers, who were living on their great Cup traditions, had reservations about the venture but were not prepared to stay outside its folds. Accordingly they continued to arrange their prestige friendlies and concentrated

their attentions on the Cup. Others saw the opportunity to attain a fame that would be indelible and began team strengthening. Preston had no need. Collectively and individually they were the greatest power in the game and it was doubtful if a player could be found who would have actually improved the side. By having a reputation that preceded them the Club's task was magnified. Clubs always intensify their efforts when opposed to the champions. Without a history on which to base a precedent, the repute of North End elected them to that role.

There are two stories of very doubtful authority linked with North End. The Club always maintained that they were initiated by those wishing to discredit a top team, which indicates the general feeling about the Club's superiority.

Both concern Cup ties against West Bromwich Albion, the unsuccessful semi-final of 1887 and the Final of 1888, and centre around that famous pioneer of the game Major Marindin, who in addition to being an old international, was also an F.A. official and noted referee, and one who made no secret of his opposition to professionalism. After the semi-final he visited the West Bromwich dressing room to ask, "Are you all Englishmen". When this was confirmed he replied, "Then I have much pleasure in presenting you with the ball". He was no doubt aware of the prevailing nationality in the Preston dressing room.

The second myth relates to the time just before the 1888 Final. Wishing to preserve their participation for posterity, it is said that the Preston team arranged to have their photograph taken and to identify the occasion they asked the Major if they could borrow the Cup. "Hadh't you better win it first", was the reply from the Major.

The authenticity of the tales is very much open to question, but the way they were circulated denotes the public feeling. Most outside Preston hoped that someone would take the team down a peg.

The envy of the Club's achievements was so marked that Everton officials were prepared to restructure their club and sought the services of Nick Ross the Scot who had done so much to help North End's climb to the top. An offer of ten pounds a month to repeat his inspirational role was an offer that the player was not prepared to turn down and on the 30th July, 1888 his departure was announced. Though Preston had long regarded him as a favourite son, the committee were not prepared to enter an auction for his services. The side already possessed a surfeit of top class players and his departure simply meant that one of their most promising players, Bob Holmes, could convert to his

normal role of full back, but it never diminished their pride. The team synchronised with delicate precision and back in 1885 had been admired for the machine like method in working the ball along the ground. Whenever they encountered adversity, and they did on several occasions, they had the knack of finding a player who could work the ball out of danger. In twenty seven League and Cup games in 1888/89 the following players scored goals against them - Gallacher, Roland, McKay and W. Brady (Burnley), Weir and Brogan (Bolton), H. Plackett and Wright (Derby), Brodie and Wykes (Wolves), Green (Aston Villa), Daft (Notts County) and Walton and Fecitt (Blackburn Rovers).

Fifteen goals conceded in all the 22 League games spoke volumes for a defensive excellence that contributed to the incredible achievement of winning the inaugural Championship without losing a game and taking the Cup without surrendering a goal. Somehow though, the sheer perfection of the achievement had been tarnished by its completeness. There is a feeling that the performance could only have happened in the formative years, when competition was less intense, when football knowhow had not developed, when somehow the opposition were lesser mortals. The comment is invidious and ill informed. In Preston's League campaign they met opposition from many fine sides and were often within fractions of losing their cherished records.

Not that the team found their entry into League football an unpleasant event. On 8th September the side of Trainer, Haworth, Holmes, Robertson, W. Graham, J. Graham, Gordon, Ross, Goodall, Dewhurst and Drummond took the field at Deepdale against Burnley. Within three minutes of the start they had underlined their challenge by scoring twice, goals that admirably demonstrated the strengths of the scorers (a header by Dewhurst and a screw shot by Gordon). Eventually they won the game by five goals to two and decided that League football was an innovation of which they heartily approved. There were, however, sides waiting who offered a more severe challenge. Although they frequently ran rampant, they were also on occasions, (five before Christmas) subjected to games that could have gone either way. Therefore memorable goal scoring sprees such as seven-nil against Stoke, all seven scored by Jimmy Ross, the same score against Notts County, five-nil against Derby and West Brom, five-two opposed to Bolton and a four goal advantage over Wolves were interspersed with titanic struggles.

The first occasion when North End might have faltered was at Derby in the fourth game of the season. The County were not a good side, but they were heartened by a goal from Harry Plackett after two minutes and considerably encouraged when Wright

increased the lead. Archie Goodall, substituting for Dewhurst, then intensified Derby's desire to win. Sandy Robertson, trying to clear the ball, fell on top of it, which prompted one of the Plackett brothers who made up the Derby left wing, to attempt to extricate the ball. His scything kick if not malicious in intent was not exactly intended to improve Robertson's constitution, and Goodall the nearest player took objection. Belligerent as always, he grabbed the Derby man, but rather less typically did not strike the blow that his clenched fist threatened. The referee quickly and sensibly sorted the situation out, but the crowd were not exactly kindly disposed to North End and the feeling permeated through to the Derby players whose resistance increased immeasurably. If the Derby goalkeeper Marshall had not unaccountably allowed a weak long shot from Ross to slip through his fingers the platform for a second half recovery might not have been created. It gave North End sufficient encouragement to return to their controlled, collected game and they profited with second half scores from Robertson and Ross. Bolton and Burnley also held interval leads and both in turn found that Preston had remarkable resilience, even if the Burnley side did hold out for a two all draw. Bolton were not so fortunate and they conceded four second half goals. To Aston Villa went the honour of providing the only blemish on North End's home record, with a one all draw, but it was unheralded Accrington who should have terminated the unbeaten record. George Haworth their international wing half strode the pitch like a colossus. Dominating the centre of the field, he launched his forwards on a series of raids that it took all the ingenuity of Trainer and the vigour of Russell to withstand. Joe Lofthouse, who had played with Haworth in Blackburn Rovers cup winning side of 1885, muscled past Holmes with regularity and he and Brand frequently had the North End goal at their mercy. Unfortunately their shooting, particularly Brand's, began wayward and became worse, enabling North End to escape without much honour, but with a goalless draw.

By the turn of the year the position in the League was academic, thirty-one points taken from seventeen games had long decided the destiny of the title, but there was still the question of local honour. On 29th December nine thousand spectators crammed into Leamington Road the home of Blackburn Rovers to see the first attempt at deciding local supremacy. The North End were moved to adopt tactics that savoured somewhat of gamesmanship. To confuse the Rovers, the players turned out in jerseys of various colours so that they had the appearance of a troupe of male mannequins. The Rovers

too had indulged in a spot of strategy. With their two regular goalkeepers injured, they had borrowed W. Holden from Darwen just for the game. The previous week they had had no goalkeeper but played the veteran full back Fergie Suter in goal, but in a game with North End there was too much at stake. The goal that decided the game was not scored until nine minutes from time. Gordon advanced down the right wing, took on the famous ex Vale of Leven full back Forbes and left him struggling in his wake. Goodall met his cross on the volley and Holden was powerless.

A fortnight later on the 12th January, the Rovers' spectators in the crowd of eleven thousand that saw the return game, danced deliriously only moments from time when their young reserve inside forward Whittaker clinched a great fight back by beating Trainer with what appeared to be the winning goal. Twice Sam Thomson, first when blatantly offside, and then from a fine pass by Goodall, gave Preston the lead. Twice the determined Rovers staked everything on attack and equalised. Then a swift interpassing movement caught the Preston defence square and gave Whittaker the chance to dash for glory. The ecstasy was short lived. As the Rovers, smothered Whittaker with congratulations, the referee Mr. Jope from Wednesbury, brought the play back and awarded Preston a throw in on the grounds that the ball had been marginally out of play.

Grimsby in the F.A. Cup had a similar story to tell of an incident that could have damaged the growing legend of invincibility. A dangerous opposition on their own ground they had pressed hard most of the afternoon and with Sandy Robertson back in the dressing room nursing a fractured collar bone, North End were content to settle for a holding action. Mills-Roberts, who was in goal because Trainer was serving the second year of his qualification period, chose the opportunity to waste a few seconds when the ball came to him. He also received the attentions of the fearsome Grimsby forward Riddock, and the ensuing collision felled both men. First to react to the situation was the Grimsby man and he turned the ball over the line only to be disappointed when the referee took objection to the manner in which he had scored and awarded a free kick. The respite allowed North End to demonstrate their supreme quality. Realising the closeness of the situation they played the final minutes like men possessed and scored through Goodall and Ross to win 2-0.

To reach the semi-final of the Cup, Preston beat Bootle away by three-nil, then Grimsby and St. George's of Birmingham at Deepdale by two goals to nil. The vacancy left by Robertson's

accident was filled by asking Drummond to take his customary move to half back and this allowed Thomson, who had missed the previous year's final and many subsequent matches because of ill health, to regain his place. The semi-final brought the Club once again face to face with their bogey side, West Bromwich Albion at Bramhall Lane. The event was anticipated eagerly by a huge crowd that was by no means confined to supporters from the respective towns. Huge parties arrived from Rotherham, Blackburn, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, blocking all access roads. This further complicated the travelling schedule of Mills-Roberts who had to make very determined efforts to even reach the ground and not for the first time, for when the game against Bootle took place he was forced to leave his home in Stroud at five o'clock and drive by horse and carriage twelve miles to Gloucester, in order to catch a train bound for Liverpool.

Preston's history had been littered with crucial games that were aggravated by inadequately controlled crowds in grounds that were too small to accommodate the numbers who wished to view the proceedings. Bramhall Lane on the 16th March 1889 where one side was flanked by the county cricket ground, did not prove a good venue. The crowd at first was orderly but a group of late arrivals from Birmingham sent the front row of spectators cascading onto the pitch. The Press men were less than enraptured to find that the officials were prepared to accommodate them by placing forms in front of the Press table, but there was no serious aggravation. A cry of hats off met with universal conformity, but when the players appeared, the excitement generated prompted encroachment on to the playing area and it was obvious that the game could not commence. A potential strategist in the crowd, a gentleman with a fierce black moustache and commanding presence, nicknamed Boulanger by a Preston wag, strode to the Press table and announced that the only hope of clearing the field lay in returning the players to the dressing room. By then the passage back had long since disappeared and the fraternising players had to remain idly waiting whilst an alternative solution was sought. It was the Mayor of Sheffield, Alderman Clegg whose two sons played for England, who provided the inspiration. He approached the front row of spectators and pushed them bodily backwards, the sight of which brought the crowd to their senses and resulted in order being restored.

The preliminaries proved more illuminating than the game which was decided by the only goal scored by North End after thirty-five minutes. Preston had had the upper hand and had a goal by Thomson disallowed. A free kick was awarded outside

the West Bromwich penalty area. After a great deal of deliberation and argument about the distance of the West Brom wall, the ball was lifted to the left by Ross. Thomson returning the ball quickly set up a perfect opportunity for Russell and the big centre-half made no mistake.

The aftermath to the game was in keeping with the times and cynical disregard for justice with which beaten opponents attempted to nullify North End's advantage. When the game first began the two captains sought out the referee and indicated that they did not relish the thought of the crowd standing so close to the touch lines. From then on the game continued without interference so that the Preston officials were, if not surprised, angered that West Brom had appealed to the F.A. on the grounds that the captains had agreed to treat the game as friendly. When later that night the Mayor of West Bromwich, Councillor Heelis, played the demagogue, announcing the appeal and adding that the West Bromwich players had never been subjected to such 'rough and dirty play'. Sudell was furious. An official letter of protest was submitted about Heelis's comments and those of the West Brom captain, John Bayliss, who was reported to have added a few expletives of his own. The reply from the F.A. did not uphold the allegations of rough play but stated that the game was to be re-played. The F.A. met yet again to consider the querulous consideration and this time judgement was emphatically in North End's favour, thus permitting them to continue their quest for the most glittering prize of all, the League and Cup double with a final against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

There was little question that the Wolves would prove worthy opponents, but the quality and sustained brilliance of the North End side were by now well appreciated. Who else could have displayed such character in the final League game of the season at Perry Bar, and played only one week before the Cup tie with Grimsby. Aston Villa, the only team to leave Deepdale with a point, were confident of ruining Preston's unbeaten record. Their cause was appreciably enhanced when the North End party were delayed en route so that the team had only moments in the dressing room before taking the field. With the crowd whipped to fanaticism, North End's players displayed their immense professionalism. Playing a cool rearguard action they absorbed the pressure in the first half and cut loose after the change round to win two-nil. It brought from the local press the following eulogies:-

'..... there is nothing to touch Preston North End. They play the game to perfection' - Birmingham Gazette.

'..... their passing and re-passing being marvellous and



PRESTON NORTH END - 1888

Back Row L/R: W. Sudell, R. Holmes, N. J. Ross, D. Russell, R. Howarth,
J. Graham, R. H. Mills-Roberts, J. Woods.
Front Row L/R: J. Gordon, J. Ross, J. Goodall, F. Dewhurst, G. Drummond.



top left

R. HOLMES

First played for North End in 1883 and stayed throughout his twenty one year career - capped seven times for England.

top right

B. R. HOWARTH

Right back. Born Preston. Joined Everton returned to Deepdale 1895. a qualified solicitor with a practice in Preston.

bottom left

F. DEWHURST

Leyland born. renowned as the 'Wizard of Dribble' - also Club secretary.





top left

S. THOMSON

A native of Lugar Boswell, joined North End from Glasgow Rangers. Versatile forward, settled in Preston when his playing days were over.

top right

J. GOODALL

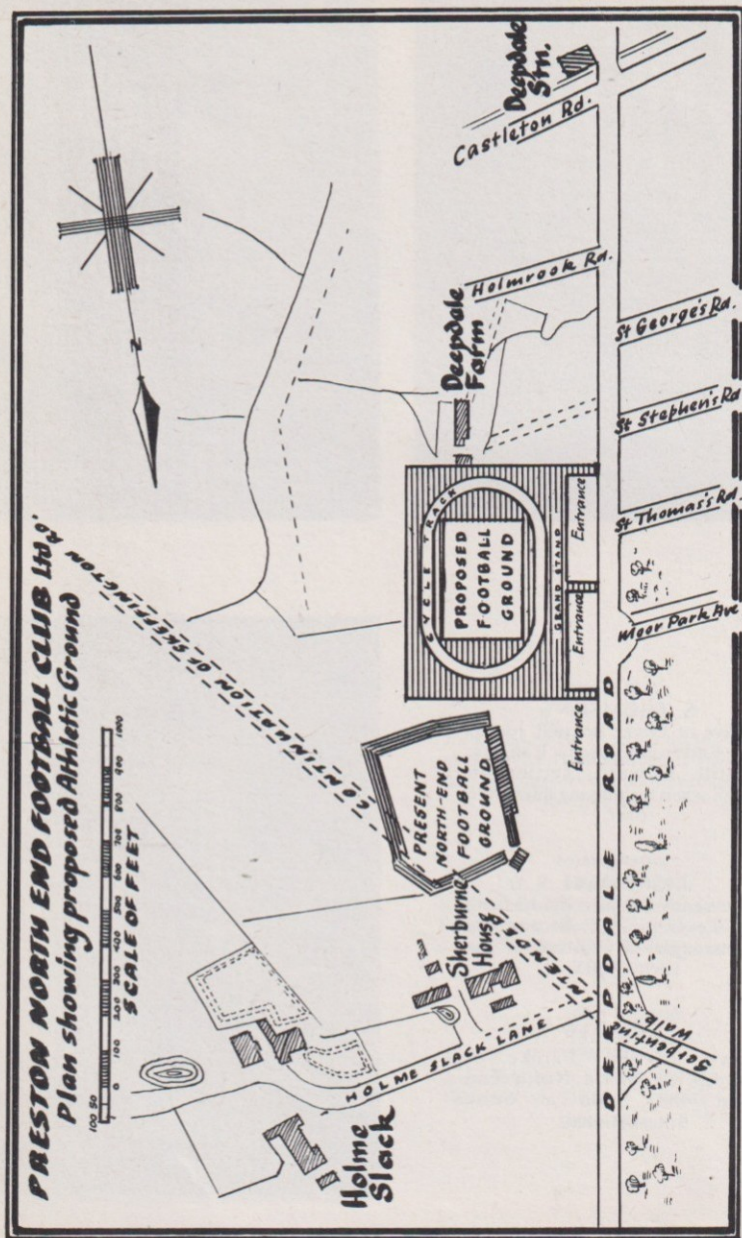
Classic centre forward signed from Great Lever in 1885. Became the first manager of Watford in the early 1900's.

bottom right

J. TRAINER

Known as the 'Prince of Goalkeepers'. Joined North End August 1887, also a Welsh International.





Map of proposed resighting of Preston North End ground 100 yds south - 1893.
This scheme was not proceeded with.

exciting' - Wolverhampton Express and Star.

'The general expanse of opinion after the match was that Preston North End was the cleverest Association team in the world'. Birmingham Correspondent - Athletic News.

Before a full house of twenty-eight thousand the Final was an anti-climax. The teams were:-

PRESTON:- D. R. H. Mills-Roberts, Haworth, Holmes, Drummond, Russell, Graham, Gordon, J. Ross, Goodall, Dewhurst, Thomson.

WOLVES:- Baynton, Baugh, Mason, Fletcher, Allen, Lowder, Hunter, Wykes, Broodie, Wood, Knight.

Wolves surrendered before a Preston onslaught that brought goals from Dewhurst, Ross and Thomson. There was though a moment before either side had scored when Wolves almost made a fight of it. Brodie engineered an opening superbly and Hunter rammed his shot against an upright. Although Mills-Roberts was standing at that side of the goal the force of the shot was such that his chance of stopping it was small. Minutes later Ross too hit the woodwork, with a ferocious drive, but Dewhurst following up drove the first goal home. When Baynton allowed Ross's shot to pass through his hands, the Wolves settled for respectability on the score sheet rather than attempting to retrieve the situation. Full backs Baugh and Mason formed a serried rank alongside the hapless goalkeeper and turned the game into a shooting-in contest.

When the team who had now earned immortality as the Invincibles attempted to receive their trophy, the authorities rather diminished the grandeur of the occasion by being uncertain where the presentation would be made. For the next twenty minutes many of the crowd brought pure slapstick to the occasion as they raced from one side to the other, as rumour and counter rumour prevailed. Finally Fred Dewhurst followed by Major Sudell collected the trophy from Major Marindin, who diplomatically hid his distaste at seeing the trophy pass into the hands of a side made up almost entirely of Scotsmen.

History has not been as kind to the Invincibles as it might. Many subsequent writers have pointed to the disorganisation that was prevalent and the lack of competitive atmosphere, in attempts to demean the performance. The arguments overlook the most vital criticism. The only way to compare the merit of teams from respective eras is to measure their superiority over their contemporaries. No-one is ever likely to equal the Invincibles lead over their opponents, not only in terms of results, but also in respect of technique and application. The newspapers of the time were convinced.

"At last after a sequence of ill fortune, the most perfect, the most consistent team ever formed in the history of the Association game in England have attained their just reward" stated the Liverpool Mercury, an attitude endorsed by every sportswriter in the country.

From such a pinnacle it is a truism that the only way for future Preston sides was downhill. The effect of such unbelievable superiority was that every other team in the game began to study the Club's play, hoping to emulate their tactics, ploys and policy. They were also not averse to offering inducements to North End players to advance their personal cause.

Most of the approaches offered only monetary enhancement but even this was a difficult proposition for the would-be inducer. Sudell controlled North End's affairs with a shrewd acumen. Fully aware that in the final analysis the sole concern was to keep the players happy and winning, the committee gauged finances with delicate precision. Although their gate receipts dwarfed those of most other clubs, the profit was not retained but was distributed to the players in the form of bonuses. It kept the players appreciative, the club successful and solvent and contributed to the honours gained. Therefore, a few clubs might have outbid North End in terms of basic wages but the players realised that the remuneration at Deepdale as a member of a side that was successful, would probably be greater than with any other club in the country.

The first defector from the Invincibles, if one excepts Nick Ross, was for implications that went far deeper than the mercenary. John Goodall had always been an enigma to his team mates, who were in broad terms split into two camps, the Scottish soldiers of fortune and the local boys. Although Scottish by upbringing and tradition, Goodall's approach to the game did not correspond to the general pattern of attitude adopted by the Scots. They were shrewd professionals who realised their own limitations and played to avoid them. Their styles were economical, controlled and calculated, designed to bring maximum efficiency to each game. The Preston men, Haworth, Holmes and Dewhurst lacked the exposure to the game's finer points that had befallen the Scots and whilst learning all the time, contributed to the team by means of superb fitness, great pace and fighting spirit. Goodall with his wide visionary and thoughtful approach to the game was in many respects the catalyst, a deep thinker and innovator, a planner and tactician. On arrival at Deepdale he had assumed the responsibility of organising the attack and had carried the side's development a stage further by instituting many ploys that would never have

otherwise become part of the team's repertoire. By this time he had achieved all he could hope to at Deepdale and the quality of his team mates was such that the future offered an insufficient challenge for his fertile brain. Derby County, who had only finished in tenth place, offered him the chance to demonstrate his strategies amongst players who were far less capable of assimilating his methods, a challenge that appealed to Goodall. There was also another important consideration. John's brother Archie had never been made to feel at home at Deepdale. A brave if reckless player he was a character several sides would have coveted but was one that Preston, because of his many misdemeanours, were loathe to field. He had made only two League appearances and Derby made it plain that they would welcome his services at the heart of their defence and this consideration was sufficient to sway John's decision. Personally he was the most unselfish of men and was later to request the England selectors to give his England place to a clubmate and protege, Steve Bloomer. He knew that Archie's career would be enhanced by the move especially if he was present to exert a restraining influence on his play. There were a few harsh words about the Goodalls departure but they were both pointless and irrelevant. North End were a team of sufficient quality to absorb the loss of a player, even one as highly skilled as John Goodall, and they had no need of recourse to undignified enticement or haranguing.

Retrospectively the move was significant. A year later Sam Thomson was legally tempted to join Wolverhampton Wanderers, an approach that cost the Midland club a £50 fine, but it was an indication to the rest of the avaricious League clubs that Preston's position as the top team did not make them immune from team problems. The offer from Derby was completely legal and the transfers were conducted through correct channels and North End were appreciative of the fact that the opportunity offered to the Goodalls was a unique one that they could not hope to match.

The major addition to the playing ranks as the Goodalls departed was a replacement for the unfortunate Sandy Robertson, the least known of the Invincibles because of his misfortune in missing both Cup finals. The newcomer was a top class player, Bob Kelso, a member of the Renton side who had styled themselves champions of the world earlier in the decade. Kelso had left his home town club to play for Dundee and then Newcastle West End before occasionally assisting Everton. A fine defender, completely at home at full back as well as wing half, he lacked some of Robertson's fire going forward but could

be relied upon to provide solid defensive efficiency. The surprise was that the signing was a half back since the one area of the side that most people thought needed strengthening was the left wing. Dewhurst, one of the original players in the Club's climb to fame, was reaching the stage where he was fading fast and Drummond was showing signs that his career was ending, he was slower and was now frequently playing wing half or full back.

With the possibility that Thomson would succeed Goodall a few rivals began to take heart from Preston's problems, the first signs of weakness detected for some time. The committee were equally cognisant of the position though the remedy was startling. After a year's sojourn at Everton, Nick Ross was anxious and proud to sport the white jersey again. He had found the problems of coping with a committee he thought less emphatic and knowledgeable than Preston's was wearying, a fact that was appreciated by, among others, an Everton shareholder who wrote in the Liverpool review, "As to Ross, general opinion is, that his hands are tied. Indeed I need hardly reiterate the fact that the great mass of the members of the Everton club are practically nonentities as far as management goes".

Intended as a left winger there was considerable surprise when on the season's opening day, 14th September, 1889, at home to Stoke, he led the line. Lead was the operative word. He played the ball quickly to either wing, stole the centre of the pitch so effectively that he scored three goals himself and encouraged the 'weak' left wing (Thomson and Drummond) to score two goals each. His brother Jimmy scored two as well and a goal from defender David Russell brought an emphatic victory by ten goals to nil.

Those who believed that the emphatic win presaged another Invincible trouble free season were mistaken. A week later on the 21st September, 1889 in the Club's twenty-fourth League game the unbeaten record was terminated. Aston Villa were three goals to one up at the interval and although Preston contested the second half with all the reserves of pride and character that marked their play, Villa held on to win by five goals to three. When in eight hectic days both Derby (who excelled themselves for Goodall) and Wolves also beat them, and the side had lost three of its first seven League games, an unthought of indignity was ominous for men who had forgotten how defeat tasted. It took a derby against Blackburn, the old enemy on the 2nd November, to kindle the team's inherent greatness. In a furious, acrimonious game at Blackburn the home side repeatedly picked themselves from the floor and hit back at a North End side playing with much of their former quality. With the score at four-

three in North End's favour and dusk gathering, Haworth who was guarding the goal line, stretched his magnificent six foot frame to its fullest in order to deflect a shot that was apparently goalbound. The overjoyed Rovers' fans and players indicated that the intervention was insufficient to turn the ball over the bar (goal nets had not yet been invented) but Haworth disputed the claim. The referee, none other than Preston's old favourite Mr. Jope, (he had disallowed a goal by Rovers in their match with North End in January 1889) was not in a position to see the incident and so correctly ruled that the goal could not stand and gave a corner. The resultant uproar could have been heard in Preston. Dubious though the incident was, it contained a fair measure of poetic justice. Night was falling because the game had run to a hundred and eight minutes, the extra time being added to compensate for the frequent incursions onto the field of Rovers' spectators protesting about the vigour of Preston's play. There was also an unsavoury incident when Kelso left the field to seek attention to a knee injury. A Rovers' official disputed the player's right to touch line attention and the incident almost degenerated into an unseemly brawl.

The game had the effect of thoroughly rehabilitating North End. They lost only one more League game (to Everton) and again took the title, though the number of points gained fell to thirty-three and the margin over the second club was only two compared with eleven in the previous season. Nor did they achieve the double though no one connected with the Club could ever explain why they were defeated in the second round of the F.A. Cup by Bolton Wanderers on the 15th February, 1900. Not that Bolton were a poor side, but the game was at Deepdale and North End were two goals up in the first nine minutes. With the wind at their backs Preston began the game in splendid fashion, scoring when Pauls, the new left winger, headed home Gordon's customary immaculate cross, and when Parkinson the Wanderers goalkeeper threw the ball straight to Thomson, who promptly hit the ball between the posts. Normally such a lead would have been sufficient for the professional Preston players to close the game up and allow the match to proceed with as little inconvenience as possible. Perhaps if Wanderers had not hit straight back they would have done so, but within four minutes of the second Preston goal, Davenport reduced the arrears with a fast, long shot. In the second half against the wind and drizzle, Preston had little option but to defend. With their usual efficiency they repulsed attacks and did not appear to be in danger, until with just eight minutes remaining a touch of sheer genius from Brogan produced the equaliser. Unexpectedly he

accelerated through a defence bewildered by his skill, beating half backs and full backs and placing the ball out of Trainer's reach. Hardly had the prospect of a replay become apparent to North End's supporters when the unthinkable happened. Weir with a similar but shorter run, repeated the performance and an unbelieving North End had lost 3-2 and surrendered their hold on the Cup.

The Cup defeat was a bitter blow that not even the retention of the League title softened. Opponents were quick to predict that the Invincibles were no more. Probably the decline was not as dramatic as might appear. The other clubs had had a season to reduce Preston's lead in the arts of the game and many had taken the opportunity. The Club's reserve strength did however appear suspect. The previous year the Club had good players to replace someone injured and this was normally Drummond, who could fill any position and so played regularly. The loss of Goodall and the decline of Robertson and Dewhurst had ended the luxury of having a top class player waiting in the wings. Although the reserve side had produced talented players in the past the list had never been infinite and it was now composed of less accomplished players who the Club were reluctant to press into first team duty. They therefore looked repeatedly to their links with famous amateur clubs to solve their problems. C. S. Lambie of the Corinthians once agreed to play, but could not make it on the day causing a hasty reshuffle. F. S. J. Gray from Walsall was another amateur who came to help out. Although he was registered two weeks before he played, the move caused official displeasure. Unknown to Preston he was on the books of Aston Villa and since Preston North End had played him without transfer fee or formal clearance, it cost them a fine of £5. On top of this came the unkindest cut of all. David Russell, a centre half who had been part of the foundation of the great North End, expressed a desire not to play for the Club and eventually left for Nottingham Forest. At first Drummond took the inevitable step back to play in the half back line, but later Holmes was moved to the position with Nick Ross in his original Preston role of full back. Needless to say this upset the attacking blend and so Russell's defection was a serious one.

By the start of the 1890/91 season the full implications of the recruiting policies pioneered by the Club were realised. Competition for players with top clubs was fierce and although they were still the most powerful club in the game, North End were unable to rectify serious weaknesses which were known to exist. The only player of note recruited was a centre forward named Harry Brandon of Paisley St. Mirren. Even this transaction had

an ominous note. The player had a brother, Tom, with far more renown. Tom Brandon was a dynamic, swashbuckling full back who was sporting the famous blue and white of Blackburn Rovers. The introduction of the transfer fee was a serious blow to future prospects. The accumulation and retention of wealth had never been the Club's policy. Players were attracted to Preston by the prestige of wearing the lilywhite and the certainty that a successful side would be well rewarded. When clubs began to receive compensation for the loss of a player's services the pendulum swung in favour of clubs funded with greater capital strength and who could afford the transfer fees, and away from the prestige aspect of playing for a famous club.

Initially when the fees were modest, the little wealth Preston had retained and their affinity with the Scots were put to good use. To replace the continually departing Invincibles two fine players were recruited. Billy Stewart, Queens Park's half back was a strong, consistent player and in front of him H. Gallacher from Girvan had both style and flair, and almost as important both were virtually indestructable seldom missing a game. They were worthy additions to the ranks of the Invincibles but even they could not be expected to fill all the voids and to make good all the deficiencies in a team beset by the problems of the break up of such a good side, which had accelerated faster than expected. Within the space of two years the names of Robertson, Goodall, Graham, Dewhurst and Thomson had disappeared from the team sheet, a loss that must have precipitated an almost permanent decline at any other club. To their credit the Preston committee spared no efforts in bids to reconstruct the side, but injuries that robbed them of the services of Kelso and the younger Ross, for almost all the first half of the 1890/91 season, did not enhance their prospects of achieving the task.

In the two previous seasons the majority of the other League clubs had all possessed remarkably similar abilities, no team having emerged as likely to supersede Preston of 1888 and 1889 but all capable of matching a North End in decline. The best of these clubs was Everton, runners up in the previous season, who had gained much from their brief acquaintanceship with Nick Ross and far more from their ambitious chairman Mr. John Houlding. Two of the stars of their side were natives of Blackburn, Dad Holt and Edgar Chadwick, which no doubt increased the desire in the Everton team to assume the mantle that a crippled Preston appeared likely to vacate. In truth though, there was still little between any of the teams and although Everton took a lead, the margin of leadership was never great. Not that this encouraged the Preston side. They missed the

two injured players enormously, their absence for the first time forcing the Club to select players of lesser ability on a more or less permanent basis. Billy Hendry, who had been brought up through the reserve side, struggled to fill the very big gap left by the broad shouldered Davey Russell. Jake Drummond and McKenna took over forward roles without ever making their place indisputable, but worst of all, no-one could be discovered who was remotely equal to filling Goodall's shoes. So desperate were the Club for a leader that they permitted W. C. Campbell, a strapping six footer who had come down to Royal Arsenal from his native Inverness, an extended run in the position. His limitations were obvious, as an Arsenal supporter demonstrated in his letter to the Preston Herald, writing "Campbell is still young and although he has not yet the correct idea of centre forward play, he is intelligent and should not be long in picking it up".

How graphically the letter illustrated the Club's plight. Two years earlier it would have been unthinkable for a novice to be allowed to lead the North End attack. Now an inexperienced player was not only playing regularly but was offered a five year professional engagement on the unconfirmed glimmer of a touch of raw talent. Long term contract or not, the experiment was concluded by February 1891 when the blond, good looking David Russell (not to be confused with the centre half of the same name) was brought down from Heart of Midlothian to take his place. Russell proved an even more lamentable failure and was not risked in competitive matches, the Club preferring to shuffle around their pack of utility forwards and later even enticing Fred Dewhurst from retirement.

With these limitations the attempt to retain their championship in Season 1890/91 was a magnificent effort that only just failed. Kelso and Ross returned after injury and a twinkle footed inside man, Barney Crossens, brought a welcome touch of delicate skills and laconic humour to the side. Even though personally disenchanted by English football (he returned home and joined Third Lanark in the close season, with the comment that he hoped he would not have to play three or four games a week) he had refreshing influence on North End's play. The side rediscovered much of their flair and set about closing the gap at the top of the table. The most important result was a 1-0 victory at Everton. When the goalkeeper and both backs were literally rolled through the goal, it was testimony to the Club's determination to hang on to their title. Relationships between Everton and North End had become soured and the crowds attitude to Major Sudell who was acting as umpire was not calculated to improve the situation. The resurgence of old form

almost worked the miracle, and probably would have done so if fate in the form of the fixture list had not had a marked influence on the destiny of the Championship. Sunderland had just been elected to the League to take the place of Stoke and had found the strange competition initially demanding. The team was however composed of experienced Scots and they adapted to their new life sufficiently to emerge as the game's future force, although their poor start debarred them from dreams of the Championship. By the end of the season they were undoubtedly the best team in the League, and to North End's chagrin two of their last three games of the season were against Sunderland.

For the first time at Deepdale on the 21st February, the Club had just realised that neither Russell nor Campbell filled the bill and decided to opt for class, irrespective of physique. Accordingly little McKenna, who had appeared as a general utility forward was asked to lead the attack for the first time, a daunting task against the giant, robust Sunderland defenders. The player and his inside forwards Ross and Crossens did nothing to redeem the choice. Instead of relying on their abundant skill and evasiveness, they chose to try and match the North Easterners for muscle and paid the inevitable penalty. Although the game was at Deepdale it was the visitors who dominated, seldom allowing North End's forwards a shot at goal. At the other end Jimmy Trainer had ample opportunity to demonstrate his class, giving a performance that the experienced Dr. Morley declared had never been equalled. It saved a point in a goalless draw, but with time running out the Club knew that it was essential to start winning. Realising that to do this they must start scoring goals, Fred Dewhurst was persuaded to make a come back. A friendly against Stoke convinced the Committee that he was the best centre forward they possessed, and he was allotted this role against Burnley. Offsetting his return however was the absence of Jack Gordon, a winger who demoralised many an opposing full back with his strong running and fierce centres from the bye line. Gordon developed congestion of the lungs and pleurisy. For three days doctors fought a successful battle to save his life, but his skills were saved for the future not the present. Not prepared to field any of the forwards who had failed so frequently, the Club brought in their best reserve, who happened to be Bob Haworth the full back. To accommodate his inclusion, Nick Ross was moved into the forward line and his brother Jim and Bob Holmes were switched positionally. The changes did not aid harmony and before the players could organise themselves, they had seen four goals fly into Trainer's net and Burnley win convincingly by six goals to two. Two days later they did win 1-0 against Villa to keep their championship

hopes flickering.

The final fling at Sunderland on the 14th March, was almost as bad as at Burnley. Two goals were conceded in the first ten minutes and the side ended soundly beaten 3-0, yet despite having taken only two points from the last three matches North End finished runners up only two points behind Everton.

Until those final matches the side's recovery had been spectacular, though in truth the team were no longer the feared aristocrats of old. In the F.A. Cup they were beaten in the first round by Stoke City who had just been excluded from the Football League. Preston supporters pointed to the absence of Kelso, Ross and Crossens as explanation, but Stoke too had their absentees. Their giant goalkeeper Rowley, flying winger Baker and recent Scottish import Houghton all missed the tie to even things up. In any case there was no alibi for a Lancashire Cup defeat at the hands of Darwen. Off the field the conduct of certain players was no cause for pride. Many of the Scottish professionals had always enjoyed their liquor, though never to the excess that provoked the ugly scene on Wigan railway station.

The team were returning from a friendly game with Newton Heath, when they changed trains and several of the side sought refreshment in the bar. In the course of the indulgence a window was broken, a bar maid terrified and two railway officials who tried to intervene were knocked unconscious by Preston players. Two Liverpool daily papers heard about the incident and reported it. The evening papers reproduced the story, though in the case of one paper the story was embellished sufficiently to provoke Major Sudell to threaten legal action.

Despite problems on and off the field, the Club were not without a trophy in their cabinet, even though they had now surrendered their tenure of the Championship Cup in addition to the F.A. Cup. It will be a surprise to many to learn, that their baseball team won the Amateur Baseball Championship Cup of Great Britain, an honour attributable to the young men of the town, since imported Americans were allowed to catch but not to pitch in the competition.

For two more seasons, 1891/92 and 1892/93 North End were the runners up (Sunderland were the champions) a situation classed as failure by the avaricious supporters, but not by other clubs who paid North End the respect still due a top class side. Competition for players had intensified and the products of the fertile Scottish football fields were no longer as amenable to the lure of the Deepdale aura. Nor were the other clubs reluctant to seek the services of men who were sporting the Lilywhites. Sheffield demonstrated that one did not have to be an Invincible

to attract attention, by acquiring the services of Jack Drummond, Hendry and Sammy Dobson, but the most effective predators were Everton who realised the potential of strengthening their side at the expense of their near rivals. Bob Kelso joined them in the close season 1891. A year later Bob Haworth repeated the journey. Soon after Preston found that other clubs did not observe the rules of free trade as they themselves did. Sunderland locked in a struggle for supremacy with North End and Everton, fell into dispute with their wing half W. Gibson and told him to return to Glasgow. The player announced that he would find his own club and contacted North End who accepted his offer and instructed him to obtain his release from his present club. When the Sunderland officials found that his destination was Deepdale, they refused to release him, informing the player that he could join any other club but North End. They realised that their own side was on the threshold of greatness and were not prepared to be magnanimous at the expense of future achievements.

To replace Kelso and prepare for the future, the Club returned to their inspirational home to recruit more Scots. James Sharp, a native of Jamestown was a classic wing half, a man who packed twelve stone four pounds into a frame that was just short of five feet eight inches, but relied upon subtle touches and flicks rather than power. He had graduated from his home town club to the great Vale of Leven side, where his artistry was much appreciated. Initial reactions South of the border were that his defensive qualities needed sharpening if he was to achieve the reputation of a Robertson or Graham. Accompanying him was an inside forward, Towie of Dumbarton Union, a man with a good reputation but like his countrymen a little ill at ease amongst the flying boots and body checking.

The other important addition to the ranks had no such inhibitions about the opposition. Local boy Moses Sanders was only twenty but had already taken a route to his own home town Club that only a character with an aggressive make-up could have conceived. His playing career began on the Marsh with a side known as the Black Knights who, in Sander's own words 'won every medal' put up for competition in the town. Sanders described himself as their flying winger, an incongruous thought for a man who weighed thirteen stone four pounds and was only five feet nine inches tall. Major Sudell had spotted his promise and persuaded him to assist the reserves, but noting the lack of opportunities afforded his team mates he moved to Fishwick Ramblers. When his close friend Sammy Dobson joined Crewe, Sanders followed, which brought him to the attention of First

division Accrington. Cash changed hands and Sanders became a power of strength at centre half and stalwart of the team earning sufficient notoriety for the Preston directors at last to notice his merits. The second time he came to Deepdale he cost money, but no one ever had cause to grumble that they did not receive value. Signing in February 1891, he spent the last few games of the season in the reserves and was then thrust into the first team, where he stayed for eight years. He was more than merely another player, indeed at times he was the heart and soul of the team. Smiling, gregarious, full of the gestures and mannerisms that appeal to the public he had the qualities of a frustrated actor. He commanded the attention of the crowd and riveted it, playing varying roles, comedian, bully-boy, reluctant artist, shining hero, as the occasion demanded. No game in which he participated was ever dull. The Deepdale crowd idolised him and even the opposing spectators appreciated his big hearted, indefatigable approach to every game. Despite his clowning he never neglected his duties for his team and though his play was robust, even for those violent times, he took a knock well and usually returned it with interest. Johnny Oswald the Notts County centre forward was the first but by no means the last player to take exception to the treatment he received and to seek retribution. It brought no complaint from Sanders, but then, as usual, he emerged from the bruising vendetta a smiling winner. To play in such a manner and yet command universal respect requires a certain charisma and this Moses had in abundance. When interviewed on one occasion he twisted his face into a caricature of a snarl and demanded 'whose life do you want to take'. He provided his own summary of the same interview by announcing 'yes, mine has been a great career', with a blandness that belied the humour below the surface.

A third F.A. Cup defeat in the 1891/92 season at the hands of Nottingham Forest, for whom Davey Russell played his usually bruising game, polarised the Club's attentions on the League.

It was not to be the last time Russell's path crossed that of North End. A friendly at Notts County was enlivened by the non-appearance of the referee for whom Russell substituted. His decisions were as contentious as his play and spectators frequently swarmed onto the pitch to remonstrate with him. It was Geordie Drummond who provided the perfect deterrent to hooliganism. As one irate fan made to grab Russell, Drummond felled the aggressor with a haymaking swing that left the recipient in need of medical attention.

A wretched start that brought four defeats in the first six games was rectified by a majestic run that produced twelve wins and a

draw from the next thirteen games. It resulted in a place at the top of the table three points in front of Bolton but the main challenge appeared to be from their old rivals Sunderland, who were seven points behind but had played four fewer games. The focal point of the season therefore was the fixture at Sunderland on 12th March, 1892, which the pundits had selected as the crucial game months in advance. So important was the game that North End had indulged in unorthodox means to help their cause, two months previously. The team were travelling by rail to Middlesbrough for a cup tie, when by pure chance an old friend, Tinsley Lindley, the ex-international centre forward from Nottingham Forest entered their compartment. He was travelling by rail from York to visit friends, and was persuaded by Major Sudell to represent North End at a F.A. hearing in which Notts County were claiming £125 for non fulfilment of a fixture. Knowing that Lindley had legal training Sudell realised that he was an ideal advocate to present the Club's case, even though he had that season assisted Notts County in a League game. During the conversation it emerged that Lindley was keeping fit by playing for Elwell Park, which prompted the shrewd Sudell to enquire if he would be interested in playing for North End in the vital League game at Sunderland. The invitation appears a little unusual but Sudell, among others, had been quick to appreciate that not all the best players were with the small number of League clubs. Accordingly he had made a practise of signing notable performers from clubs outside the League so that in emergencies they could be called upon. Lindley, overjoyed to receive the chance, thought it unlikely that Preston would require him to play or that Notts County would release him, particularly as he was undertaking the brief against his old club in the forthcoming hearing.

Sudell's foresight in signing the players was rewarded when the vital game approached. James Sharp, received a serious leg injury in the Cup tie with Nottingham Forest that was to sideline him for over a year. To provide a degree of proven class to the team, Sudell ran through the names of the 'guest' players he had signed. It was an impressive list. Tinsley Lindley, Bob Roberts once of the Welsh Druids and an experienced international, his club mate at Bolton the Scottish centre forward David Weir and Tom Maley, one of the original Glasgow Celts and a proven player at both club and national level. On the morning of the match the table was headed by Preston with thirty-three points from twenty-one games, six in front of their opponents who had three games in hand. Preston decided to field only two of their mercenaries so the teams lined up:- SUNDERLAND: Doig,

Forteous, Gow, Wilson, Auld, Gibson, J. Hannah, D. Hannah, Campbell, Scott, Miller. PRESTON: Trainer, Holmes, Ross, Roberts, Sanders, Stewart, Gordon, Ross, Lindley, Gallacher, Becton.

Ground conditions in the North East were not conducive to artistry, indeed the east wind blew with such cutting effect that some of the players thought that they were hardly conducive to breathing. The pitch had been covered with layers of straw, which was removed shortly before the game, leaving the surface playable, albeit barely. Feelings between the sides ran high and were heightened following an incident which decided the game in the first half. Leading by virtue of a long shot from Auld, Sunderland players pressed forward, and their winger Hannah ran the ball over the line for a goal kick. The umpire provided by the Sunderland club, Mr. T. S. Watson, raised his hand to signal the decision, but dropped it immediately when the player lunged and centred. As many Preston players stood waiting, Trainer dived forward and knocked the ball against the legs of Campbell. The ball ricocheted between them, before finally crossing the line for a goal that the umpire refused to disallow despite vehement Preston pleas. Although Ross did reduce the lead before half time, North End were seldom in contention and second half goals from Auld and D. Hannah sealed a crucial 4-1 victory and passed the impetus to the Roker side. It was a position they did not relinquish. Preston dispirited and bitter took only a point a game from their four remaining fixtures leaving Sunderland champions by a margin of five points.

The following season 1892/93 the League positions were exactly the same though the margin of eleven points told its own tale of the merits of the clubs. A three month suspension for Drummond following an incident with the long suffering Johnny Oswald of Notts County scarcely helped the Club's cause, but they did manage a Cup run that was in retrospect the last defiant gesture of the Invincibles. To reach the semi-final North End had beaten Burton Swifts at Deepdale, then Accrington away and Middlesbrough Ironopolis - drawing at Deepdale but winning 7-0 in the replay. There were two new faces in the side Roy Cowan, a fast, elusive winger from Leven and one of the few players to graduate from the Club's reserve side, Frank Becton, who had survived the seemingly withering effect of two seasons in the reserves to emerge as a neat, tireless player able to play in any forward position. When the abrasive Drummond returned to the side for the semi-final against Everton, the legend appeared far from an end. In two games at Hillsborough the first was a draw 2-2 and the second ended 0-0. For the third meeting the venue was

switched to Ewood Park, where North End were still the best side and played in a way that the great Aston Villa half back John Devey, fifty years later declared he had never seen equalled, they were superb. Devey stated that the North End of the Invincible era were like clockwork, causing spectators to strain their necks to keep pace with the power and accuracy of their passes. That afternoon at Ewood Park the old skill coursed through their veins, again Everton torn apart and gasping were scarcely allowed a seconds respite, yet ludicrously and unbelievably they won. With time running out and the score 1-1 the great Nick Ross swung at the ball in an effort to keep the game flowing. The ball spun from his boot for a corner, and from it Paddy Gordon climbed high to head the winner, a travesty if ever there was one. Even so there was one incident deserving of entry in the record. Trailing to a Maxwell goal, Preston attacked down the right flank. Gordon twisting his way to the by line pulled the ball back for the younger Ross who hit the ball with a power seldom seen on a football field. Few spectators or players on the field and certainly not the Everton goalkeeper even spotted the direction of the ball, until it had ripped into the net, wrenching it free from its moorings.

This was to prove the final defiant gesture of an almost spent Invincible era. Minor retribution against Everton was achieved ten days later on 30th March, when North End won a Lancashire Cup game at Deepdale 5-1. The game was first played on 11th March but with North End leading 3-0 the crowd barriers broke and the match had to be abandoned.

In season 1893/94 the age of the Invincibles having lasted eight years came to an end that was as dramatic and consequential as was its beginnings. For some time Major Sudell had been in poor health, and the decline in fortunes of his business affairs left him a ruined and broken man. On Thursday, 20th July, 1893 at a stormy General Meeting, some members were very critical of Sudell's handling of the financial affairs of the Club and on the 12th August a prospectus was issued for North End to become a limited company. The company was incorporated on the 29th August, 1893 with a nominal capital of £5,000 divided into 5,000 shares. The first directors were William Blackburn, James Bowling, Francis Coupe, Thomas Cunliffe, Robert Lambert, Samuel Lee, William Naylor, William Edward Ord, Charles Parker, Robert P. Woodhouse. The solicitors were Forshaw and Parker Jnr, and the auditors Mr. Thomas Rushton. The firm founded by Thomas Rushton still audits North End's accounts.

As a player of more than average ability, Major Sudell had acquired the ability to direct professional players on all matters

including tactics and approach. His presence was an inspiration to the players and his understanding with them unique. Unfortunately since he had run North End as a virtual dictator he had no logical successor and the new Chairman Mr. Tom Houghton was thrust into a role where he had an invidious precedent to follow. In 1895 Major William Sudell was charged with embezzling his firms funds and his counsel gave the reasons for his plight, as money spent on North End. Sudell was sentenced to three years imprisonment, after which he emigrated to South Africa where his suicide on the 9th May, 1911 ended, in an all too tragic way, a life devoted to North End. His achievements in so short a time were remarkable and the final words about William Sudell must be - 'look at his record'. In ten seasons under his leadership, North End's results are a fitting requiem, P 632, W 455, D 75, L 102, Gls F 2194, A 739.

Although the Major's downfall was an intensely personal affair the clubs and people connected with the game demonstrated that they possessed an understanding nature by rallying round to support his family. The following year the President of the Football League Mr. J. J. Bentley wrote in the Athletic News, "We are afraid that what Major Sudell spent on the old North End Football Club formed the nucleus of the deficit which afterwards terminated so fatally, for he was badly supported by Preston. But the real mistake seems to come after that. Whilst, however, we think it is wrong to hold this up as a terrible example of the awful effects of football, we think footballers will do well to remember that the unfortunate man was once one of the leaders in English football and if they will remember this, to support and not to kick one down, they may indeed do something worthy of the best spirit of the game. They can help by extending the hand of generous benevolence in aid of those whom Major Sudell's fall had not only crushed almost to hopeless despair, but left wholly unprovided for. These are events which are worse than death. This is one of them, for it leaves Mrs. Sudell and a large family altogether unprovided for, children absolutely without resource. We do not want to say more than can be helped, that would only be rending heartache, but the pathetic spectre of a woman left suddenly to face the world alone, without a penny and with many hungry mouths to fill should appeal to every heart. Let us then as footballers, do what we can for those who find themselves hurled from comfort to penury and let us send in our little to help".

The situation that was bequeathed Tom Houghton at Deepdale, was not nearly so rosy as the recent record on the field of play had indicated. The greatest side ever assembled at an

English club had almost disintegrated, but worse still the Club was left to face the penalties of its own policies. From the outset the side had been run in an elitist manner, with the first team paramount and no attempts made to establish continuity. It had been assumed that recruitment in Scotland would always continue and poor attempts had been made to establish a grass roots nursery that could have trained local men for the team. After donating the Challenge Shield for schoolboy football in 1884, the Club in 1887 presented a shield to be competed for between teams from local mills and workshops, in an effort to find local talent, but Scotland was still considered to be the best source for future replacements.

In a town that possessed a tradition of Rugby Union the failure was lamentable, especially since in Dewhurst, Holmes and Haworth, there had been the embryo of a very promising replacement policy. Since that time only Frank Becton had worked his way up from the reserves and he was shortly to demonstrate that he believed that he owed little to the Club. In March 1895, soon after gaining a surprise selection for England, he demanded a large increase in his basic wage. The North End directors were staggered, but Becton had strong points in his argument. Bolton were fully prepared to match his demands, Manchester City wanted him and Aston Villa were prepared to pay a transfer fee of £250 - then a staggering sum for a player. It was thought to Liverpool that he was finally sold. Quite rightly Becton could point out that North End had done little to encourage his loyalty. While Scots had been welcomed with open arms, local men knew well the treatment afforded to Billy Joy, who the following year demonstrated a far more forgiving nature by returning to help out the Preston reserves. They could also point out that Moses Sanders, a man idolised by the Deepdale crowds was allowed to leave the reserve side, and hawk his services around the country, until he had proved his worth with Accrington. By thus failing to establish a nursery policy, North End had committed themselves to the expense of future transfer fees, a situation that could not quickly be remedied. Nor were the Preston public blameless. They had grown accustomed to the fare provided by the Invincibles and they were harshly intolerant of the efforts of less skilful players in the lilywhite shirts. Whenever times were difficult they stayed away in droves and those who came carped and quibbled instead of providing encouragement.

For the 1893/94 Season, to compensate for the loss of Billy Stewart who went to Everton, the Preston directors sought more Scots. Thornber, a wing half, McCann in the forward line and

best of all Johnny Cunningham a twenty year old from Glasgow, who was one of the few men to have played for both Celtic and Rangers. At home in most forward positions he was a man with a penchant for turning directly at goal, wriggling and twisting like an eel to shake off the attentions of defenders.

The new players however, were an insufficient force to cope with a season that was full of trauma. Nick Ross the patriarchal figure of the Club had developed tuberculosis and on the 4th November, 1893 disappeared from the side, at first acting as umpire but later being too ill to fill even that function. Devoid of his leadership the side fell to the lower reaches of the Division and by the turn of the year it was evident that they were in real danger of finishing in the last three and having to participate in the test matches that decided promotion and relegation. In the F.A. Cup, the side was defeated 3-2 by Second Division Liverpool, but not before Nick Ross had returned to provide a final heart rending memory. In the first round the Club were drawn at home to Reading, but had entered the tie against the little Southern side with injury problems. Jimmy Ross, Gordon Sharpe and Connor had been frequent absentees in the previous weeks, a drain on playing resources that produced a minor sensation. In a crucial home game with fellow strugglers Bolton, the Deepdale spectators were shocked to see the side trot out, accompanied by the team trainer John Barton who was garbed in lilywhite shirt and took up a position on the right wing. Not that Barton was there simply as a carrier of the sponge. Team trainers then, had to combine the duties of groundsman with that of ensuring the team were fit and in good health and Barton, a twenty two year old, had been given the position for his strength and hard work and not his skill as a physiotherapist. A contemporary of Sanders with the Black Knights, he had played for Lytham before accepting the engagement with the North End in 1891. Enormously popular with the crowd and the players, he was a distinct character and if his knowledge of first-aid was sketchy he was not without resource. He devised a means of restoring players to consciousness or persuading them to play on after injury, that earned him the nickname Pinchy from his charges. As befits one who had to impress upon the players the merits of fitness and effort, he commenced his League baptism in high spirits and 'went like a steam engine all through'. In style he attempted to emulate no-one, but ran hard for the goal line and crossed quickly. To the surprise of most, it proved effective and he was retained for a further six games. The impression he made on the directors was so favourable that at the end of the season they hired a groundsman and let Barton concentrate on training the team. Although his debut did not alter the team's fortunes,

because they suffered a crushing four-one defeat at the hands of Bolton, it did earn Barton a place in the side for what was to be a memorable Cup tie, the teams lined up:- PRESTON: Trainer; Holmes, Ross; Grier, Sanders, Drummond; Cowan, Barton, Ross, Becton, Cunningham. READING: Manners, White, Justins, Dean, Turner, Knight, George, Frewen, Read, Corbett, Stewart.

There was only one guide line to current form. Reading had beaten Great Marlow by five goals to nil. Great Marlow was a small side that had beaten North End by the only goal. On that basis the Reading camp were in good heart and were sufficiently encouraged to provide the guarantee to the Great Western Railway Company to run a fifteen shilling excursion to Preston for four hundred. Estimates were obviously not the club's strong point for when the train pulled into the Station at midnight on Friday 26th January, 1894 only twenty nine people disembarked and they included the players and officials. Not intimidated, the faithful few greeted their favourites with such fervour that a contemporary writer was moved to say, "if the four hundred had arrived and had they been built on the same lung capacity as the sample who were on the spot, they would have carried the place by storm".

Encouraged by this reception the side evidently took heart for they held out for eighteen minutes before Becton opened the scoring. Then goals arrived more regularly. It was six-nil at half time, eighteen-nil at full time as Nick Ross, in the last game he ever played, spurred his men on to provide an unwitting eulogy to the great Scot who had sparked the legend of the Invincibles. Never again did Ross grace the Deepdale pitch. Before the month was out, he was in Matlock in the hope that the spa waters would aid his recovery, and then it was on to Madeira to see if the sun would prove beneficial, but he died in August at the age of 31.

The side's fortunes ebbed in sympathy with Ross's health, and conscious that the merest change in League position would plunge the side down into the last three and participation in the dreaded test matches, the Club set out to recruit more Scots. From Airdrie came the closest of friends, Billy Carr and Adam Henderson. Moving together was to become a way of life for them. They had first played together for Airdrie Fruitfuls in Orr's home town (Henderson was born in Darlington) and had graduated to play for Airdrie. Then they were to leave Deepdale in 1897 to join Celtic. Here at last the partnership ended. Orr became a Celt for many seasons but Henderson returned to Deepdale after only a season's absence.

At the time they joined Preston there was no sign that they would ever wish to be apart. Henderson played on the left wing,

and behind at left half was Orr, who would wait on the edge of the penalty area to hit a cut back centre with savage power. He was also the best exponent of the throw-in the Club had possessed since Stewart and Graham. Despite being of less than average build, he could hurl the ball vast distances. In the same month (March 1894) two centre forwards arrived, Harry Miller from Paisley St. Mirren and the popular Dave Smith from Kilmarnock Athletic. They were all good players, but if the signings could be faulted it was on the grounds of experience. The side badly needed an old head but the Airdrie pair were only twenty and Smith was a year older.

As the combination took time to gel, two crucial games were lost in February and March. Darwen, who occupied the penultimate place, beat North End two-one and Nottingham Forest won by four goals to two. The only hope of avoiding the test matches lay in finishing ahead of Bolton, who were bracketed with them on fifteen points when the clubs met at Bolton on the 21st January, but who, in the Lancashire Cup, had since fared slightly better. The new men were players of fighting calibre, mindful of the fact that only winning could help the situation, North End had beaten West Bromwich Albion, Sheffield United and Newton Heath away, and on the last day of the season at Manchester, they battled on despite having no experienced back fit to play. Hugh Dunn, a twenty year old signed two months earlier from the Minerva side of Renfrewshire, took the right back position partnered by the even younger G. F. Nidd, who was being groomed in the reserves. They made a splendid pair of deputies, and the side took heart from their presence to beat Newton Heath by three goals to one. There the fairy story ended. Although Preston had climbed a point above Bolton, the Wanderers had two games in hand, from which they extracted three points. In the last game of the season they had met a surprisingly feeble opposing side in Sunderland, who had a long pedigree that denied the form they displayed. Many people connected with North End were tight lipped about the result when Bolton won 2-0.

Faced with the prospect of the test matches, there was a feeling in the town and even among knowledgeable football pundits, that the League would change the rules rather than allow an institution like North End to demean themselves by placing their whole future at stake on one match. Perhaps such wishful thinking was designed to influence the Football League, if so it was obviously a complete failure. On the 28th April, 1894, the side took the field at Sheffield for the first and only test match in the Club's history. Their opponents Notts County had finished

third in the Second Division, but were not kindly disposed to the North End. They could remember several occasions when the Invincibles had shown them no mercy and Johnny Oswald in particular had no cause to recollect their play with pleasure. To emphasise this, one of the main miscreants, Drummond, was surprisingly selected to lead the attack, a new role even for this extraordinary utility man. On the morning of the match there was a dramatic prelude. Jimmy Trainer dashed round to a director's house to report that he was not fit to play. Fortunately the Club were well equipped to cover his absence, even if finding the deputy was a matter of urgency. Jimmy Pinnell, sometimes known to those standing some distance away from him as Jamey, was an effective player. Everton's regular choice in goal until he fell in dispute, he had only just been acquired as cover for the ageing Trainer. Six feet two inches tall, arrogant and competitive he had no qualms at all about being thrust into such an important game. Notts County too had their disappointment being without the muscular Jack Hendry, a half back of tremendous character and power. The teams lined up:- PRESTON: Pinnell, Dunn, Sharp, Grier, Holmes, Sanders, Cowen, Ross, Drummond, Cunningham, Henderson. NOTTS COUNTY: Toone, Calderhead, Harper, Shelton, Wilkinson, Bramley, Watson, Donnelly, Logan, Bruce, Daft.

Although the approach to the game presaged a thriller the outcome was an anti-climax. Drummond enjoyed himself enormously in his new role and opened the scoring. His skill and daring helped lay on other first half goals for Ross and Cunningham, and another goal early in the second half sealed North End's salvation. It was not until the last twenty minutes that Pinnell was forced into regular action, though with the score at two-nil he made the outstanding save of the game. Logan bore down on goal and fired a rocket of a shot under the cross bar, but the ball was flipped disdainfully over by means of the goalkeeper's splendid reach. When the game ended there was a pleasant touch. The North End players and fans turned to pay tribute to the player who had dominated the game. Half back Billy Grier had struggled manfully to compensate for the loss of the Invincibles, ever since he joined the Club after serving in the King's Royal Rifle Regiment in 1890. At last his quiet, unassuming play had been recognised and if North End had dropped into Division Two, then an unsung hero would have been paid his dues, but fortune smiled that day at Sheffield.

In the close season Liverpool, who had just gained promotion to the First Division, stepped in with an offer for Jimmy Ross in order that they could have the benefit of his vast experience.

Preston were not prepared to stand in his way and quite frankly were glad of the fee for a player who was well past his prime. The deal was finalised, but within the month tragedy brought complication. His brother Nick Ross had been in decidedly worsening health as the consumption that gripped his lungs refused to yield to treatment. However, his doctors had allayed fears for his life and the player had taken up residence in Longridge because of the bracing quality of the air. On the 7th August 1894, came the shock announcement of his death. The town recognised the debt due to him and gave him the kind of funeral normally reserved for royalty. Crowds lined the streets to pay their respects. On his death bed Nick Ross had remained a North Ender to the last, and made his younger brother promise that he would wear the colours of no other club than Preston. A grave Jimmy Ross presented his predicament to his new club, but they were not prepared to gratify even a death bed promise. Reluctantly and with much delay the morose player packed his bags and left the town, but although he continued to play for another decade, the smile vanished from his game and never returned.

The first Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in the newly formed Company was held at the Weavers Hall, Walker Street on the 7th June, 1894. For the eight months to the year ending 30th April, income was £3,626.10s7d. and expenditure £3465.8s.2d. For Mr. Micawber a profit of £161.2s.5d. would have meant happiness, but the directors expressed concern at the serious fall in gate receipts because of the team's poor results. The twelve directors who served during the first year were Messrs. Brown, Cunliffe, Coupe, Houghton, Iddon, Margerison, Musprait, Ord, Parkes, Pomfret, Woodhouse and Sudell. The decline of Sudell is evidenced by his attending only 4 of the 33 meetings.

For three seasons North End were destined to become an average, run of the mill, First Division side, feared as much for past greatness as present quality. They developed a happy knack of acquiring players with vast potentials, but could never afford to speculate enough to capitalise on their perception. Among the best of the new men were Sandy Tait and Bob Blyth, both men hailing from the village of Glenbuck, a location that has specialised in producing outstanding North Enders. Tait, a left back, established a great partnership with Bob Holmes. He was a dark, swarthy man who sported a huge, black moustache and took his football seriously. Never known to smile, he studied his opponents play with intensity. No winger ever beat him the same way twice, but it was his heading that was supreme. No-one

playing the game remotely equalled his ability to time the ball and he rose to meet it with immense athleticism. Blyth had already established a reputation with Cowllairs and Rangers, when he joined North End as a twenty year old in 1894. Like many of his countrymen he found the pace of the English game disconcerting, but the directors were aware of his potential and allowed him to attune himself at outside right. Having adjusted to the demands, he was back to his correct position of wing half and became a firm favourite. With Trainer still without peer and the oft forgotten, but superbly fit Holmes in great shape, there was nothing wrong with the defence, and that is without taking into account the contribution of the much loved Moses Sanders. The local lad continued his rollicking, eventful football life and although his repute was that of the clown, his contribution should not be overlooked. His courage was second to none and on one occasion he emerged from one fracas he was wont to indulge in, with a kick on the ankle which later swelled to the size of an egg and recovery was slow. The directors being informed of the injury presumed that he would be an absentee for some time, but Sanders would have none of it. With the aid of his old crony 'Pinchy' Barton, he designed a shin pad of plaster of Paris which set around the swelling and took the field, though he wisely refrained from informing the referee about his precautions.

The main reason why the Club could not aspire to greater deeds lay upfront. Only Henderson was a permanent choice and the sole new face to display any talent was another winger Tom Smith. His background was unconventional, for he came to the Club from Maryport Rugby Union Club. He was also a champion sprinter. Although he never aspired to become a ball-artist, he had a shrewd idea of his potentialities, and any full back misguided enough to give him room was courting disaster. No player could match his speed and if the full back left him room to kick ahead and chase, there was no doubt who would reach the ball first.

In the 1897/98 season, the disaster that had been continually just around the corner finally came home to North End. A reserve policy of any strength had still not been established and the Club was forced to rely upon recruits like Tom Pratt and Sandy Brown, who had proved their worth in junior football with Fleetwood and Glenbuck respectively, but had still much to learn about the top class game. For some time the Club had avoided disaster by their judicious choice of twenty year old recruits, but this luck could not continue. Poor Brown, a raw, big hearted youngster was given the task of co-ordinating the work of a team whose style was described as "passing the ball to the winger, who

would run hard for the goal line, attempt to beat the back and then cross either to an opponent or into the crowd". Needless to say he failed and had to bear the brunt of the crowd's ill humour, a rough judgment on a lad playing with a team described as relying "simply and solely on blind rush".

Affairs were not helped by negligent organisation that on one occasion resulted in misjudged train connections, and had the team stranded at Wolverhampton. With the final two games of the season to be played North End were in last place in a table that read:-

	Played	Points
Notts County	28	22
Stoke	28	21
Blackburn	26	21
Bury	27	20
Preston	28	20

That this position held any possibility of avoiding the test matches, was due to the acquisition of a couple of shrewd old professionals in February 1898. Commencing a brief acquaintanceship were May, an inside forward, and James Blessington, who had played for Celtic and Scotland and had come South in the twilight of his career to search for the richer rewards that were offered. They hardly transformed the team, but they did re-organise some aspects of the play and improved the playing record. The last crucial games were played on Good Friday and Easter Saturday and etched Blessington's name in the Club's annals. He first inspired a three-one win at Deepdale, that drew Notts County into the struggle, and then helped trounce a Derby side, devoid of the services of Methven, Bloomer and Johnny Goodall, five-nil. The delighted directors dug deep into personal pockets and gave the players a bonus of one pound each, on top of which they footed the bill for a day trip to Blackpool for twenty two players.

The final irony was that the heroics were not needed. To the delight of many Preston fans, Blackburn were forced to take part in the test matches and to the rapture of many more, Rovers finished bottom of the mini league formed to decide which of the bottom two First Division clubs and top two Second Division clubs should be relegated. There was though a fair measure of controversy surrounding the proceedings. In the final test match, Stoke and Burnley had drawn 0-0 which ensured that Stoke stayed in Division One and Burnley were promoted from Division Two with Newcastle (second in Division Two) having to remain in the second flight joined by Blackburn. Most pundits

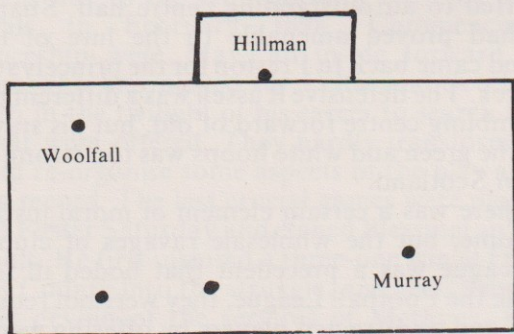
were convinced that the result had been 'arranged', and another powerful lobby sprang up to retain the legendary Rovers as a First Division club. A proposal was put to the League that the First Division be increased by two clubs to eighteen, and popular sentiment was sufficient for it to be carried.

Although Preston supporters had been smug at the Rovers fate, their own Club had little cause for complacency. The following season they finished fifteenth of the eighteen clubs. The year after 1899/1900 they teetered even nearer the brink, finishing third from bottom, after an even more desperate struggle. By this time the Club's prospects were receding rapidly because of the regular migration of their players. The Scottish Catholics at Deepdale had always felt a desire to play for Celtic and in 1897 Orr and Henderson took that route. A year later, however, the winger returned accompanied by a familiar blond haired figure, David Russell. Since his unhappy and brief experience at Deepdale, he had returned to Hearts where he had been converted to an outstanding centre half. Snapped up by Celtic, he had proved amenable to the lure of the English sovereign and came back to Preston for the princely sum of seven pounds a week. The defensive Russell was a different proposition from the fumbling centre forward of old, but his stay was brief. The lure of the green and white hoops was too strong and he was soon back in Scotland.

At least there was a certain element of moral justice in Scots returning home, but the wholesale ravages of clubs from the Southern League was a precedent that boded ill for Preston. Being outside the Football League, they were not required to pay transfer fees and so attracted players by offering wages that few League clubs could match. In quick succession, Sandy Tait, acknowledged as the best full back in the game, Tom Smith and Tom Pratt went to Tottenham and Sandy Brown, who was maturing into a goal scorer of merit, moved to Portsmouth. A year later Brown joined the others at White Hart Lane and though Pratt moved to Woolwich Arsenal soon after, the three remaining players were to star in the Spurs Cup winning side of 1901.

The season of 1899/1900, when the Club finished one place removed from disaster, witnessed another epic fight against seemingly certain relegation. At the close of the Easter programme North End were next to bottom, in one of the relegation berths, three points behind the nearest club Burnley, with only three games left in which to make up the deficit. Test matches had been abandoned when the League was extended and automatic promotion and relegation instituted.

On the 21st April, the clubs met at Turf Moor. For most of the game Burnley were rampant penning North End back in their own half, as they sought the win that would secure their safety. So intense was the pressure that it was surprising that with minutes remaining Preston had chosen to push three men upfield awaiting a break away. Obviously these men lacked tactical vision, for had they checked they would have seen that the Burnley left back, McLintock, had wandered into his opponents half, leaving only the right back Woolfall and goalkeeper Hillman between them and the goal. Thus under the ruling then in force, the North Enders were offside. The position was sufficiently important for the newspapers of the day to draw a sketch map of the incident which is reproduced below:



With the players in these positions, a ball was hacked out of the Preston defence towards Murray. Burnley players and crowd appealed for off side, but Murray who ran onto the ball did not stop. Most fans were convinced that the player was merely relieving pressure by time wasting and only Hillman made any attempt to stop his run for goal. As the goalkeeper advanced Murray kept his head and rolled the ball past him into the net. Seconds later there was uproar when it was seen that the referee

Mr. West, who was probably unsighted deep in the Preston half, had allowed the goal, and before anyone could recover their composure the game was over. North End had won 1-0.

The heated arguments that followed continued for weeks. Two days later the Burnley side recovered by beating Sheffield United, but on the last Saturday of the season a final twist arose. Preston beat Wolves 2-0 at Deepdale, but Burnley lost at Nottingham to the Forest. The outcome was that Preston with one game to play needed to gain only one point from their Monday fixture to retain their First Division status. The situation was intriguing for cast in the unenviable role of deciding which of their neighbours met disaster were Blackburn Rovers. There were only two days for rumours to spread, but it was ample time for both Burnley and Preston fans to decide which team Rovers were going to favour. Cast in this invidious role the Rovers' players decided that justice must be seen to be done and from the kick off they tore at the North End. Peter McBride the North End goalkeeper could testify to the application of the Rovers' forward line. As he went to receive a ball he was struck with such force by Fred Blackburn that he was knocked spinning across goal. In truth though the Rovers were, as the table demonstrated, a poor side. Then Preston at last overcame their nerves and kept play away from McBride's goal and took the lead. Elliott the half back, crossed the ball with precision to Adam Henderson on the left wing whose centre found Stansfield in the centre of the field, and his dash past the full backs and oblique shot were perfection. The second half was opened by a wave of Rovers' attacks, but Holmes playing his last professional game (he applied for and received reinstatement as an amateur soon after) organised the team superbly. It gave the side the platform on which to obtain the vital second goal, though once again the team had reason to be grateful to a referee. T. Eccleston out on the touch-line hammered a shot cum centre towards goal. Walter Whittaker, the Rovers goalkeeper met it with his fist, but could only punch it inside the post. By a freak the ball rebounded from the netting with such speed that a less alert referee than Mr. Helm would certainly have missed it.

Safe for another season, North End were given a prophetic lesson. In Geordie Drummond's benefit game the first team, except for Whittle deputising for Murray, were pitted against the Invincibles (Joy; Howarth, Holmes; Grier, Sanders, Graham; Gordon, Ross, Goodall, Thomson, Drummond). The result of a game that was far from the sedentary stroll of most scratch friendlies, was three-one for the veterans.

In 1900/01 the struggle ended as it was always bound to do,

in relegation. For most of the season only the agility and daring of the man who proved to be a worthy successor to the great Trainer, Peter McBride, enabled them to ever rise above last place in the League. With the whole weight of tradition on his shoulders he stood behind a defence composed of new names like McMahon, Montgomery, McIntyre from Tarbuck and Tod, and as it disintegrated match after match, he compensated with a series of displays that bordered on the incredible. It brought him personal recognition that in the end sealed North End's fate. Playing for the Anglo-Scots in the Scottish trial in March, he injured a shoulder and missed the remainder of the season. The Club's threadbare reserve policy was exposed for what it really was. There was no Pinnell ready to take over, nor even a Joy who had been allowed to join the Rovers and the Rovers' own discarded James Carter had also left his home town club. The reserve keeper was Woodhouse who had no League experience, and it showed in his play. In two disastrous games he conceded three against Notts County and six against Bolton. Prepared by now to bend the law the Club took Wilkie on an illegal temporary transfer. The five pound fine which was levied on them would have been cheap if the stratagem had succeeded. The goalkeeper did do his best. He starred in a three-one win over Bury and also played a considerable part in a three-two victory at Hillsborough against Sheffield Wednesday. That game produced a golden moment for Preston. With the side hanging on to a one goal lead, with only minutes to go, a thunderous drive from Chapman was pushed straight to the feet of Spikesley, who scored the inevitable equaliser. Straight from the kick off, J. Rogers North End's new outside right from Newcastle, burst through and slotted the ball past Stubbs. In the celebrations that followed, reports said "his hand was well nigh rung off by the exhuberance of his comrades".

Needing goals for the final game of the season, the Club's directors found a novel way of providing this commodity. They selected six forwards, Rogers, Pratt, Gara, Becton, Pierce and Green. Pratt had rejoined the Club that season from Woolwich Arsenal and Becton had returned from Liverpool. They had, however, overlooked the fact that the extra man would weaken the defence, but their opponents West Brom, were not so unaware of fundamentals. At half time Pratt was moved to wing half, but by then the damage had been done. North End lost the game and when they heard that their rivals Stoke had unexpectedly won away at Notts County they became, for the first time, a Second Division side. If the players had shown little fighting spirit to avoid the drop, the same could not be said of the directors. As soon as the result was received from Nottingham, a

telegram of complaint was lodged with the secretary of the Football League Mr. H. Lockett. It read "We find the match could have been played at Trent Bridge. Most unfair to us. Strongly protest against result standing". The substance of the objection lay in the fact that the County shared the ground with Nottinghamshire Cricket Club who had priority when the seasons overlapped. Therefore the last game of the season was played on the Forest ground, which according to Preston surrendered home advantage. It was at the time a practise known and accepted by the League, and consequently the appeal was firmly over-ruled.

Ever resourceful the directors submitted two proposals to the Annual General Meeting of the League, that caused many officials connected with the game unconcealed mirth or outright anger. The first was that the League should be extended by two clubs (there were no prizes for guessing the name of one). The other was a safeguard in case the first was not passed. It was that promotion and relegation be extended from two to three clubs. It was hardly in keeping with the spirit of the Invincibles but it was after all adopted seventy two years later!

Chapter 3

Make Do And Mend

Even the trying years experienced immediately preceding the loss of First Division status had failed to alert the fans to the disastrous straits into which the Club had fallen. It was bad enough to witness relegation without the fate having been compounded by the final undignified attempts to halt the inevitable. Pride, that vast intangible commodity that was so intrinsic to North End, appeared to have finally shrivelled and wasted and by laying this before the football world for all to see the Club was left desolate and vulnerable.

Tottenham Hotspur chose that very time to underline North End's weakness. Spurs had modelled themselves on North End even to the extent of adopting their white shirts. In the previous decade they had shown marked tendency to fill these shirts with players who knew well how to sport the lilywhite with pride and skill. Sandy Tait, Tom Pratt and Tom Smith had all left Deepdale when in their prime and since Tottenham were in the Southern League there was no monetary compensation to North End. The necessity of a Cup Final replay at Burnden Park brought Spurs up to Southport and this proximity to Preston was used to advantage. A Tottenham official was soon observed talking to the two Peters, McBride and McIntyre and when it was later found that these two players were actually quartered with the Tottenham party, the anger of the helpless North End officials was very evident. An additional factor which increased this anger was that Sheffield United had already agreed to pay £200 for McIntyre's services.

For once though, Tottenham's efforts failed. Both players refused to commit themselves and the relieved Preston officials were able to protect the Club's interests. McIntyre was persuaded that Sheffield would be more beneficial than the bright lights of London enabling the Club to receive a vital injection of cash, and McBride finally accepted the Club's wage of £4 per week. Frank Becton left for New Brighton and the funds enabled the ranks to be augmented by the acquisition of centre half M. Good from Reading and inside forward C. Spence from Watford.

It was soon very obvious in 1901/02 that there was a vast disparity in the standards of the two Divisions. Few clubs in the Second Division had any pretensions to advancement and this allowed Preston to return to more successful ways in a manner that was a trifle muted but nonetheless welcome. The attack, which during the previous year could muster a mere forty nine goals, increased this output to seventy one and the defence's efficiency increased noticeably, conceding only 32 goals compared with 75 in the previous season. The sum total of these achievements brought them third place but they were nine points behind the second club Middlesbrough, a margin for which there were no excuses. However, considering the start to the season North End were on the whole content. Before serious competition even began the robust play of the Club's own reserves had left McMahon in a Manchester Hospital nursing a badly bruised knee. Without his services, (Melia from Sheffield Wednesday deputised), a friendly at Ewood Park brought a chastening experience, Blackburn Rovers below strength and not over committed won convincingly by three goals to nil.

Happily the Second Division contained few stars as bright as Blackburn and a sustained ability to punish the lesser clubs paid dividends. Although restricted from any extravagance in the transfer market, a shrewd understanding of the possibilities of little known players brought reward. Bob Jack was rehabilitated after his career had appeared terminated by a serious ankle injury. To reward his benefactors he ran the left wing with all the greyhound pace that had served Bolton so well for more than five years. Despite his play being more notable for electrifying acceleration than pure craft he was a remarkable teacher. Later, in 1903, he was the first professional signed by the newly formed Plymouth Argyle and served that Club for nearly a quarter of a century as their first manager. The part of Jack's fame that has survived was his ability to pass on the fundamentals of the game to young players. It was no coincidence that his son David became a greater player than his father, a noted inside forward for Bolton, Arsenal and England and scorer of Wembley's first F.A. Cup Final goal. Similarly his teaching had a marked effect on young Pegg, preferred at centre forward to Gara who had been capped for Ireland and the youngster took his opportunity commendably bringing zest and strength to the position.

Two crucial factors contributed to the failure to seriously challenge for promotion. The first was a marathon Cup tie lost against Manchester City. The three games occupied three hundred and thirty minutes and sapped the player's energies. The second was the loss for the last two months of the season of Peter

McBride, following a serious injury sustained against Middlesbrough on the 8th March 1902. No adequate reserve was available and a frantic search in which West Brom offered the loan of Lowe was ended when the Club remembered that Griffiths, Tottenham's Welsh goalkeeper had been registered for Preston for four years. Not required at White Hart Lane, he was playing for Millwall, but a quick visit South brought him to Deepdale for the remainder of the season. In view of the somewhat tentative relationship that existed between the two Clubs the transfer was effected with surprising rapidity, but perhaps Tottenham were appreciative of the debt due.

The close season was spent on team strengthening. Despite the impressive displays by Good, Jock 'Sailor' Hunter, Liverpool's tough centre half was brought to supersede him and Gara was sold to Nottingham Forest. To replace him an unknown twenty one year old, Percy Smith from Burbage in Leicestershire was taken from the obscurity of the Midland League where he played for Hickley Town. Five feet ten inches tall, straight backed and honest he was to become one of the shrewdest signings for years. Brave without bravado, calm without detachment he was a solid, reliable unpretentious player. By a surprise irony his signing was announced on the 12th June 1902 the very day that the death occurred of Jimmy Ross, just nineteen years after he had first arrived at Preston. Ross was only 37 and died in Manchester where he was registered at the time with Manchester City having signed in 1900. North End sent a wreath to his funeral, fittingly described 'To an old Invincible'.

In a financial sense, Second Division existence was costing the Club dear. Without the benefit of the lucrative takings from the derby games with Blackburn, expenditure at £4,945 exceeded income by £695. This was despite a healthy surplus on transfer fees (£455 received against £290 spent), with a cumulative deficit on the profit and loss account of £2,380, the brave words that the team would be further strengthened had to be viewed with scepticism. Yet the fact remained that the Club could not afford to remain a Second Division side for much longer without the prospects of a permanent decline.

It actually took a further two seasons to escape and surprisingly that was only possible because of shrewd investments in good experienced professionals. Hunter proved a splendid leader and Merseyside again proved an excellent recruiting area when the services of the highly skilled veteran Jack Bell were obtained. A Scottish international and one of the game's finest ball playing schemers he had the rare capacity of getting the very best out of others. Percy Smith benefitted greatly



J. McCALL

Born Kirkham, joined North End in 1905, played his last game 1925.
Served the Club loyally for 20 years. English International
outstanding centre half.



P. McBRIDE

Native of Ayr. Spent 14 years in a distinguished career with North End until 1911-1912. Capped four times for Scotland.



J. McCLEAN

Signed September 1903 as an inside forward, later converted to wing half.



T. RODWAY

Made his debut against Blackpool in the last game of the 1903/04 season. Had remarkable tackling ability - played 336 games in twelve seasons of sterling service for North End.

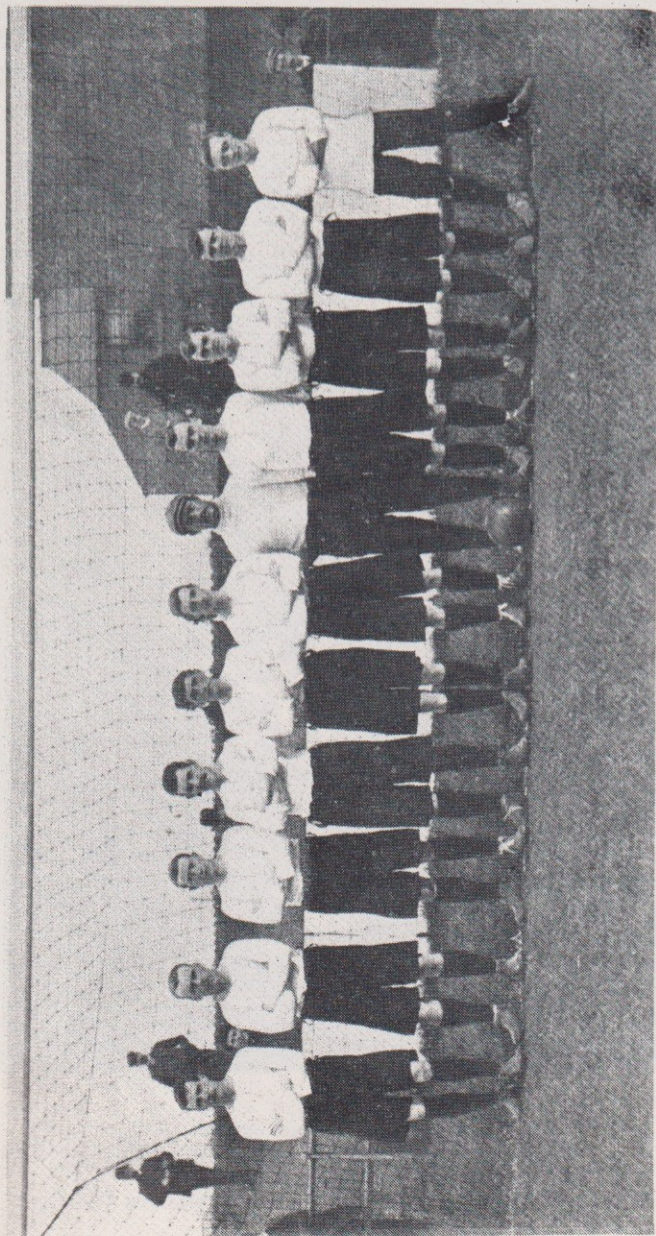


PRESTON NORTH END
Division Two Champions
1912/13

Reproduced from a postcard of the era.



W. E. ORD
(Pictured in 1907 as Mayor of Preston)
North End's first President, also a Board member
and Club Chairman
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PRESTON NORTH END 1905-1906

Left to right: A. Locket, T. Rodway, G. Tod, J. Bell (Captain), J. Turnbull, J. Derbyshire, P. McBride, J. Wilson, J. Hunter, J. McClean, R. Bond.

from his assistance, but not even he had as much to thank his mentor for as Dickie Bond, a young local lad who ran the right wing with pace and trickery. Needing room to avoid the attentions of an opponent, for he was slightly built and easily intimidated, Bell's precision passes gave him the vital yard of space he required. Another veteran to arrive was Jimmy McLean, once of Walsall and West Bromwich, who came in September 1903, in exchange for William Fenton a twenty five year old who had joined the Club from Albion Rovers in 1898. McLean it was hoped, would provide the craft at inside forward which could bring out the best in Bond. The signing was opportune. A broken leg sustained in the game against Burnley terminated the career of the tiny veteran English International Rab Howell who had spent an illustrious career with Sheffield United and Liverpool. A collection was made around the ground as Howell was on his way to hospital and the considerable sum of £26 was raised.

Howell's injury led to McLean being converted to wing half. Dedicated and commanding he was an impressive player and one who was never afraid to resort to illegality if he deemed it necessary, he was the final piece in the team's rebuilding for season 1903/4. Tough and confident in defence with McBride, Derbyshire, Orrell and Hunter a fearsome rearguard and convincing upfront, they did not just gain promotion, they romped away with the Second Division title, taking fifty points from their thirty four games. It was a regal return in keeping with the Club's past, an important point, for seldom can a side have needed to win so convincingly in order to relieve the pressures from deeds of the past. To emulate the skills and standards that had been set by the Invincibles had been a daunting task for successive North End teams and the taking of another trophy was a tremendous step forward in persuading the fans to forget the past glories. Ironically the last link with the Invincibles had been snapped before the season began. At the end of the 1902/1903 season Bob Holmes, a veteran of sixteen years at Deepdale was given a free transfer. He was not the only proven servant to leave. Tom Pratt, the Fleetwood lad, who had played for Fleetwood Rangers, Tottenham and Grimsby, before displaying his protean qualities at Deepdale was sold to Woolwich Arsenal in September 1903, paving the way for the arrival of McLean.

Having looked for a season a First Division side, it was no surprise that consolidation was a relatively simple affair. The tigerish half back line of McLean, Hunter and Billy Lyon kept at bay many a set of forwards and the magnificent McBride was worth a goal a game for the confidence he instilled.

At left back a new signing, the thickest genial giant Tom Rodway of Cannock Chase made the considerable step from the Southern League at Wellingborough to the First Division. Rodway, twenty four years old when he came to Preston had played for Aston Villa from where he had moved to Wellingborough. He made his debut against Blackpool in the last game of the 1903/04 season. He soon demonstrated the remarkable positional sense, tackling ability and aplomb that carried him through three hundred and thirty six games in his twelve seasons of sterling service to North End and gained him several England trial appearances, though never a full cap. The man he followed as Derbyshire's partner, Dickie Orrell, left to join Jack at Plymouth.

The attack, apart from a tendency to leave the final decisive prod to Percy Smith, had a balanced look and merry twinkle. Jack Bell, still slow but always ready to strike with a telling pass was the main spring and Bourne was a willing ally to many a devious move. At the end of the season Bourne signed for Clapton Orient without North End's permission. To resolve the situation Orient offered £50 for his services against an asking price of £250. On appeal to the Football League, the fee was fixed at £100. Clapton were not new to this method of obtaining players, for at the same meeting they were involved in an almost identical situation with Glossop's Boden. Bourne's replacement on the left wing was Lockett. On the other wing Jimmy Wilson from St. Mirren, and one of a noted Ayrshire family of eight boys that did much to prove the belief that football skill is hereditary, joined forces with Bond. Quick to realise Bond's repertoire, he began to twist and turn in possession, holding the ball and drawing the man so that Bond was given the vital half yard of space he needed. The emphasis on artistry was a shade too marked, so much so, that the only goal scorer to reach double figures was Smith. Next best marksman was Albert Brown, a heavy weight six footer who had played for West Ham, Aston Villa and Queens Park Rangers. His tally of five goals was composed of a brace of penalties in the game against Notts County and the odd header that was a tribute more to determination than technique.

So poor was the marksmanship that Brown, who was often a reserve, was the only man who could score from the spot. Percy Smith and Tom Rodway had both failed and it was a measure of North End's desperation when a glowering Peter McBride stepped up to take the penalty against Derby County on 17th September 1904. Unfortunately despite a lifetime of observing penalties from the other end, the goalkeeper's aim was as

wayward as the rest of his team mates.

To further the club's prospects of enrolling young talent an unofficial relationship was forged with Southport Central who were then in the Lancashire Combination and only barely keeping the financial wolf from the door. Without the benevolent hand of League clubs who came each year to take the best of their players in exchange for sorely needed cash, they would have folded.

Preston were usually presented with first choice by Southport, and reciprocated by persuading players who had not made the Deepdale grade to make the short journey to the seaside. Thus when the left wing pair Dawson and Preston born Danson came to Deepdale in May 1905 it was yet another deal to cement the ties between the two Clubs.

Both new men, particularly Danson a light weight mobile winger, made their presence felt but it was not their still latent talent that galvanised the side to a serious challenge for the title. Jack Bell, a player whose contribution to the clubs he had served had been immeasurable chose his swansong to launch North End on a determined challenge for honours, knowing this represented his last chance to win a personal medal. His craft and prompting brought from Dickie Bond the response that many knew lay below the surface of his smouldering talent. With new confidence Bell began to vary his routine beyond the dead ball line and centre play and was soon cutting into the penalty area to shoot with explosive power. The change in style showed quite dramatically when the season began. Within four minutes of the start of the first game at Deepdale on the 4th September 1905, he astonished the spectators and Nottingham Forest's defenders by charging head down, past the opposing wing half and both full backs before ending the run with an unstoppable shot, the goal being the prelude for a three-one victory. By the end of the season not even the steady scoring of Smith could compete with Bell, and his tally of seventeen goals was testimony to his new approach.

Prospects for North End had not been brighter for thirteen years. They had fashioned a good side at very reasonable cost and there were good reserves in a capable Lancashire Combination side. The accepted first team squad was McBride, Derbyshire, Rodway, McLean, Hunter, Lyon, Bond, Wilson, Smith, Bell and Lockett.

Freed from the burden of ever being thought of as challengers North End crept stealthily up the table. From 4th November to 24th March they suffered only one defeat in taking twenty seven points from eighteen matches. At the end of January 1906 they stole into the ground at the top of the division when, away from

home to highly fancied Sheffield Wednesday, they applied themselves with such resolve to the wresting of a point in a one-all draw that the game degenerated into a frantic brawl. Punctuated by the staccato whistle of the referee Mr. Bailey, the closing minutes of the game engendered enormous hostility among the home spectators. Hundreds of them mobbed the players as they ran for the dressing rooms and the same motley collection lay in wait for the North End players as they commenced their homeward journey.

By now the Preston players were well accustomed to crowd misbehaviour and could view it with equanimity. Only a month previously on Boxing Day the home game with Blackburn had to be abandoned when the crowd encroached onto the pitch but there was little crowd misbehaviour. A large sudden influx of Rovers' fans packed all the streets around Deepdale so that when the Rovers arrived on the 12-23 from Blackburn, there were already enough spectators to fill the ground. By kick off there was double this number in and around Deepdale and when the gates were locked they were immediately broken down. The latecomers then pushed the fans who had paid for admission right up to the touch line and play had to be held up twice during the first half. When the referee refrained from turning the teams straight round, it was clear the game would not finish, although a farcical twenty minutes was contested with hundreds actually inside the touch lines. The following day at Preston Police Court several of the Rovers fans were tried for hooliganism. Amongst their numbers was one Helen Davies aged seventy, who was convicted of being drunk and disorderly! Fortunately for North End who were a goal ahead at the time, they won the re-arranged fixture by two goals to one.

In consequence of their fine run they moved up the table to second place and with the League leaders Liverpool at Deepdale on 24th March appeared poised to strike for the title. When Danson, deputising for Bond on the right wing, skipped daintily through the Liverpool defence with a very neat touch of enterprise and then delicately placed his shot into the net, Preston's confidence was high. But even as seasoned campaigners jumped with glee, the undismayed Merseysiders stormed straight back and equalised. Then despite their international defender Cox being a near useless passenger, they contrived to grab the winner when McBride of all people was caught away from his goal. By a curious coincidence his brother W. Cox joined North End that season. From that point on, Hewitt, West and Raisebeck ensured that Liverpool would not again pay the price for loss of concentration. Even so Preston

could point to two rocket like shots, one in each half, that came back into play from off the cross bar.

Easter time defeats at Stoke and Sunderland emphasised that Preston were entitled to no more than second place, but the season's performance amply refuted the consistent allegation that their only glory was buried deep in the past. A great season closed on a note of optimism.

If football proficiency had been reborn the same could not be said of the club's cricketing traditions. At West Cliff at the start of the season they dismissed Preston Cricket Club for 105 (Smith 5 for 32). In reply they slumped to eleven for nine before Bond who made eleven struck out to take the total to nineteen.

On the strength of a newly negotiated twenty year lease on the Deepdale ground at an annual rent of £50, plans were drawn up to restructure the spectators accommodation which was the smallest in the First Division and had contributed to the Boxing Day debacle. The grandstand was re-erected and other embankments created at a cost of £3,000 so that an extra ten thousand people could be accommodated.

Flushed with the success of the season no spectator would have believed that it would be two decades before the Club was again to challenge for the game's top honours.

In succeeding seasons they came attuned to a place just below the half way line, displaying a consistency that only the mediocre somehow manage. The form of Dickie Bond was symptomatic of the North End's failings. Who can explain what vagaries of form and application reduced a man, the idol of Deepdale and who had scored seventeen goals to the derisory seasonal tallies of four, one and two despite the stimulus of international recognition. Towards the end of his stay at Deepdale he grew disenchanted with his surroundings, unexpected for a local man, and it was little surprise to anyone when in the summer of 1909 he left for Bradford. The fee at least helped compensate for the wasted years, but it would be unfair to attribute all the blame to the little winger. A more important cause was the inevitable departure of the multi-talented Bell, for true class is always at a premium, and when the side is constructed around such a figure the search for a replacement can be unenviable. Mark Becton, a Prestonian and younger brother of former North Ender and English international Francis Becton, was signed and played some very good games. By the time defensive deficiencies caused by the loss of the veteran Hunter had been corrected, by the conversion of the dutiful Smith, the forward line had lost the last semblance of blend. For a time both Dawson and Wilson proffered to take over the mantle of chief goalscorer, but whenever one player

began to score goals with regularity, the rest of the forwards lost form and this inconsistency was reflected in results.

On Sunday 6th January, 1907 there was sadness at the Club at the death of Harold Goodburn, a local lad who had just obtained a first team place at inside forward. Only twenty years of age and the smallest forward in football Goodburn had developed a heavy cold when he was selected for the game at Birmingham. He told his brother that he would rather he had not been selected but did not inform any officials of his indisposition. Within three weeks he had died of pleuro-pneumonia, the second active player lost to the Club in two decades.

Season 1906/7 which had opened with such optimism ended in disillusionment, with many set backs resulting in thirty players being called on for first team duty, one of these was the legendary Joe McCall whose solitary game was the first of three hundred and sixty nine for North End.

For the season commencing in 1909 a player emerged who was truly a master of the art of goalscoring. With the proceeds from the sale of Bond, North End turned to their Scottish cousins Celtic and bought David McLean to lead the attack. In his first season, despite the team being in a state of flux, he was competent enough to score eighteen goals, testimony to his superb fitness and tactical appreciation. Centre forward was no sinecure and a man with a reputation bought his fame at a high price. McLean relied on razor sharp reactions, the ability to lose his marker, a genuine desire to succeed, and an appreciation of the qualities of his inside forward Jim Bannister, who joined the Club at the same time. Leyland born Bannister had been a partner of the immortal Billy Meredith at both Manchester City and United and a member of the United's championship winning side of 1907/08, he had learned some of the great wingers winning ways. Realising the way McLean could ghost away from his opponent, Bannister developed a short, skilful flick played from close to the edge of the penalty area. McLean's anticipation and deadly finishing did the rest. If the positions in the forward line had been filled with men of the calibre of Bond at his best or a rejuvenated Bell, the possibilities would have been infinite. Instead those alongside McLean had obvious limitations. Men like Mountenay and Winterhalder, were honest, clever and hard working players, but were not regular goalscorers, and in any case were birds of passage. In the following seasons Bannister began to fade, while McLean was left a very ordinary mortal. The entrance of Sheffield Wednesday with a cheque for £1,400 was sufficient to convince the directors that it would be a shrewd piece of business to accept before the lustre of McLean tarnished completely.

It did not take the centre forward long to prove what a major mistake had been made. McLean immediately swept to the position of the League's leading marksman and remained throughout a long career a consistent scorer. A decade later he was still scoring goals for Forfar Athletic in the Scottish Second Division, although by then only a part timer. To supplement his income he kept a public house in the town, a strange occupation for one who had been a fitness fanatic and a total abstainer all his life, but then McLean was ever the pragmatist.

Not only lack of forward stability hindered the Club's aspirations. Throughout football North End's officials were held in low regard for their commitment to winning at all costs. This, coupled with the fact that the small ground made playing at Deepdale often financially unrewarding for visitors heightened opposition to the Club and increased opponents determination to win. Nor were the players themselves anyone's favourite opponents. Among their ranks were numbered many tough characters who never allowed anyone an easy game. Peter McBride was one of this genre. He had an amazing contempt for any opponent and displayed it by making their shooting appear feeble. By dint of superb positioning and quick footwork he would be in position waiting for the ball, treating the efforts with exaggerated disdain and many forwards resented this attitude. Several of the game's hard men, and there were few angels around in those days, became determined to make him suffer for his antics. Goalkeepers were not over protected by legislation at the time and forwards were quickly up to make physical contact and cause problems by fair means or foul. Most custodians developed nimble footwork and took evasive action, but a number like McBride, resented this indignity and would risk injury to their magnificent physiques for the sake of their personal pride. Typical of this breed were Fatty Foulke, and Albert Ironmonger, like McBride huge men with great reputations and tempers to match. Inevitably the outcome was a series of confrontations that ended in general disorder. McBride who was Scotland's regular goalkeeper could be just as violent as the roughest centre forward. When dashing little Arnold Whittaker celebrated his debut for Blackburn with a hat trick beyond McBride's extensive reach, the goalkeeper dashed out, caught him by the throat and shook him. On the occasion when two Bolton forwards threatened to charge him, he merely stood there and taunted them to get on with it. They did so as a combined unit, flooring him heavily, adding insult to injury by trying to kick the ball over the line. McBride was on his feet in a moment, throwing punches like a heavyweight boxer.

On several occasions his impetuosity cost his team mates dear. On the 5th January 1907, favourites for the League Championship Everton, were contesting a bitter draw at Deepdale. Five minutes from the end, Young the Merseyside winger wriggled free only to be chopped down by full back Lavery, a yard outside the penalty area. As if to compensate for the seriousness of the crime the referee awarded a penalty, a decision which justice, more adequately than laws, permitted and finally left both teams very angry. When McBride flung himself superbly to his left to reach and hold the ball, the last shreds of discipline snapped. Two Everton players rushed in and kicked him, causing the goalkeeper to go berserk. In seconds the scene was like bedlam with players throwing punches from all angles. It took more than two minutes to restore order and disentangle the shame faced players, but at the end of this period the referee Mr. H. Pollitt was left with the spectacle of two players, Tom Rodway and Taylor rolling around the floor, locked in grim conflict. Just like the class joker who is unaware that the teacher has returned they continued their feud, unaware that the pandemonium had subsided. Eventually they were separated and justifiably received the mandatory dismissal, though in departing early they at least missed the ugly spectacle of the mob that attempted to attack the Everton team when the final whistle blew.

It was a similar desire to protect McBride that brought Billy Lyon a month's suspension two years later. Harry Hampton of Aston Villa was a centre forward who was the scourge of goalkeepers. Not a large man he possessed remarkable powers of acceleration that brought him into a contact situation before most goalkeepers were aware of the danger. He would then throw his weight into the unprepared opponent with utter ruthlessness, scoring a high number of goals using this technique. His tactics were legendary and opponents would meet fire with fire by detailing another tough character to ensure that Hampton seldom received the chance to go goalkeeper hunting. Lyon, a small rugged Scot, from Inverness, was normally allotted this role by North End and as usual he brought into play all the same teak tough dependability that had made him a stalwart. Tempers between the two were soon simmering merrily, but the referee, either from choice or weakness, left them to their own devices. By half time Hampton was back in the dressing room, his leg badly torn and tempers off the field were matching those on it. The Villa director Mr. E. Rinder drew the referee's attention to the wound, but the official was still not willing to venture into an area where there was little regard for official discipline and refused to

intervene in an incident which he had not seen. Unfortunately for Lyon the matter was not closed. Sitting in the stand as a neutral observer was the F.A. Official John Lewis, 'Honest John' founder of Blackburn Rovers, supreme referee and disciple of fair play. Lewis's impartiality was legendary. He had sent Bolton's famed goalkeeper Sutcliffe from the field with the same aplomb with which he disallowed a Czechoslovakian goal in the 1920 Olympic final against Belgium, which precipitated an unprecedented walk off. Having seen Lyon's involvement in the incident Lewis submitted an official report to the F.A. as a result of which Lyon was suspended for one month. If Lewis had come from any other town than Blackburn, the incident might have ended there, but passions still ran high between the towns. On a point of principal that the referee is in sole charge of the match. Preston submitted an appeal and sent Messrs. Ord, Houghton and Secretary Parker to plead their case. Hardly surprisingly they were given short shrift, and the appeal did little to enhance popular opinion of Preston, particularly since both Preston directors had had a brush with officialdom three years earlier.

Defensive efficiency had long been the basis of North End's survival, and accordingly the public were well accustomed to viewing talented defenders. Full back partnerships of merit had always been a feature of Deepdale life and failure to unearth an equally talented partner for Rodway was galling. Eventually this situation was resolved when big hearted Charlie McFadyen came down from Oban, where he had played for Dunoon Athletic. His lunging tackles, robust approach and long clearances soon made him a great favourite. In front of him E. Holdsworth took the well trod route from Southport, to provide craft and resource to the right half position, and commence an uncanny understanding with a man who became a legend in his own lifetime, Joe McCall. The stocky McCall had played for Kirkham where he was born, before he came to Deepdale in 1905 as a stylish 18 year old indefatigable youth. He signed professional on the 20th July 1906 and played the last of his three hundred and sixty nine games for North End nineteen years later on the 17th January, 1925 against Leeds United.

McCall made his League debut at Deepdale on the 15th September 1906, against Woolwich Arsenal when North End were beaten 3-0 and Joe was dropped and so started his outstanding career in a way familiar to many other famous players. It is safe to say that very few, if any, then realised that this 5' 8½" tall left footed full back was destined to be one of football's immortals.

In the latter half of the 1908/9 Season he had made the centre half position his own. Even though content to work like a trojan upfield one minute, back the next, he had that rare commodity, style. His entire play was characterised by a relaxed elegance, and before long his passes to either wing were the accepted standard for comparison in the game. Discerning spectators came from miles away to watch the stocky little man strolling elegantly down the centre, before suddenly with one quick, deft flick launching the ball fifty yards into the path of the raiding winger.

There was little wrong with the defence but it was subjected to far too much pressure since the attack was as weak as ever. In 1910/11 there was a salutary lesson. Despite the presence of the forceful McLean, who played until February, North End could manage only forty four goals, in forty one games. Enough to keep them safe in fourteenth place, but insufficient for peace of mind. Even that record was in many respects an improvement on the 1909/10 season. Although extremely hard to beat at home where they took thirty points from nineteen games, their away record was lamentable. From the first eighteen games they took just three points and scored twelve goals even though the attack was strengthened by the inclusion of McLean after the first half dozen games. On the season's penultimate day they were away to Woolwich Arsenal, a side then in dire financial straits and this was reflected in the quality of their play. Even though the opposition was so undistinguished the game never appeared to be anything other than a home banker, for never can a side have appeared less confident on opponent's territory. Needled by the constant derision, the North End players chose this belated opportunity to confound their critics. Before Arsenal realised the game had started in earnest Preston stormed forward displaying an aggression that had been completely lacking in every previous away game. Within three minutes McLean had put them in front and four minutes later the savage pressure produced more reward. Staggered by the unexpected resistance the Gunners were sufficiently demoralised for their full back Shaw to attempt an unnecessary back pass when no danger threatened. As his goalkeeper was totally unprepared it resulted in a classic comic own goal. From that point the team even had sufficient quality to overcome the set back off a typical Ducat penalty that went like a rocket past McBride. Far from hanging on, North End increased their lead when little Danson chipped home the third goal with the confidence and precision of a golf professional. It clinched the first victory of the season on foreign soil. The dismal away record was - Played 19 - Won 1 - Drawn 2 - Lost 16 - For 16 - Against 45.

Hampered by a restricted budget the transfer market had to be

dismissed as a practicable method of solving team problems, Deepdale had not been able to house sufficient spectators for the lucrative derby games so that whereas the fixtures at Blackburn had produced a £1,000 gate since January 1907 the proceeds for the return at Deepdale never topped four figures until December 1908 when admission prices were raised. Consequently funds were just not available for the Club to compete with those more affluent for the really good strikers who might transform the team. Buying was therefore limited to discards who might prove a bargain. Ben Green, a renegade from several clubs, was such a character. His path had crossed North End's before with dramatic consequences. On 29th December 1906 he was playing for Birmingham on the newly opened St. Andrews ground. A piano was offered as a prize for the scorer of the first goal on the ground and Green must have been a lover of music or had thoughts of the value of a piano for he threw himself into the scoring of the goal with such gusto that in doing so he crashed headfirst into the piles of snow which had been cleared from the pitch. Extricated by the legs he had to be brushed down and warmed up before the game could restart. At twenty nine he had behind him a proven goal scoring record with Birmingham. Barnsley and Burnley and an equally well confirmed reputation for a fickle temperament that no club appeared to be able to improve. At Burnley he had in the previous season become embroiled in a bitter personal feud with centre forward Phil Smith, which became public knowledge, and it was inevitable that one of the two had to leave. Burnley opted to release Green, and although few clubs would have been willing to risk him, North End were in no position to be choosy. Their leading scorer previously was Bannister with a total of only seven goals.

Green's acquisition did not solve Preston's problems although the player himself in scoring ten goals, proved his personal ability. Blend was non existent a fault that was a direct result of events at the end of the 1909/10 Season when Percy Smith, Wilson and Dawson were collectively released. Although Smith, then aged 28 was at that time a surplus defender and had been in poor health, he had previously displayed enough attacking potential to be worth his place in emergencies, and clearly a degree of stability would have aided the side. Smith himself had the last laugh. He joined Blackburn for a fee of £125 and went on to assist the Rovers to two Championship victories in 1912 and 1914. To replace this exodus came J. Hallan outside right who had played with Barnsley and Brighton, Winterhalder signed in 1908 from Everton, W. Kirby a Prestonian and a centre forward who had played several seasons in the South including a spell with

Portsmouth, J. W. Thompson another outside right signed in 1910 from Sunderland and A. Chester inside left and R. Thompson centre forward, who were spotted when a friendly was played against Wingate Albion. There was not a pedigree amongst them and so blend became elusive. As the Club began to slide to failure it was ironic that a local lad Stan Fazackerley should commence a career not with North End but Sheffield United, that was to bring him stardom as an England international forward. It was another "local boy makes good - but with another club" a story that is well known to football scouts.

With the forward line in disarray, the Club's only salvation lay in their trusty defence. When injuries disrupted the talented half back line so that Holdsworth, McCall and Wareing never appeared en bloc after the season's opening weeks, it was inevitable that relegation was in the offing. By the time the strong half back line was restored in January 1912 the Club was almost doomed having taken only seventeen points from as many matches. Even McBride found the strain too great and after fourteen years with North End (he had taken a second benefit the previous year) was replaced by Herbert H. Taylor. For the reserve goalkeeper, the experience was shattering. Taylor had spent seven years understudying the great man since arriving at Deepdale from Hinkley, and it had left him ill prepared for a last ditch battle. Remedies could only lie in the hands of the Preston directors but their actions only brought criticism. At the Shareholders meeting that followed the 1911/12 season, an irate member accused the directors of conducting a policy of make do and mend since 1901. It was a fair assessment though it should be remembered that resources were never great. Even so a more enlightened approach might have been expected than simply the one of continually chopping and changing without introducing new blood. It was not until the New Year's Day fixture with Blackburn yielded a gate of £1,130 that North End had the cash to recruit. In quick succession they brought the Irish international James Knight of Glentoran and Burnley's mercurial winger J. B. Morley and paired them on the right. Even though they were initially involved in the last stages of the debacle that saw the Club go goalless for five consecutive games between the 24th February and the 23rd March their craft and trickery began to alter fortunes.

Yet so dismal had been the form preceding their acquisition that a few extra points appeared unlikely to affect the outcome. A 4-1 defeat away at Woolwich Arsenal on Easter Monday had seemingly made North End certainties for the Second Division, McFadyen, Wareing and Danson were injured sufficiently badly to prevent them playing at West Bromwich on the following day,

and an urgent request was sent north for Baker and Turner, two inexperienced reserves, to make up the team. With Tom Galloway drafted in at left half they took the field a very dispondent team, yet against all odds dredged the last vestiges of pride from their great traditions. Goals from Green and Kirby produced a two goal win and more incredibly brought hope that relegation could be avoided. Fellow strugglers had been dropping points and a quirk of the fixture list left North End with no less than three home games to end the season. Aston Villa, the first hurdle, was cleared comfortably with a 4-1 victory and three goals from Green and one from Kirby. Escape now even appeared more probable than possible as their next opponents Sunderland and Middlesbrough had nothing to play for other than their self respect. To prepare for these vital games training was intensified. The normal sedentary walk in full civilian attire, was extended as far as Longridge and back so that the players would be fighting fit. But relegation is often decided by tension not fitness. This game was no exception. A dubious penalty award when the team was already a goal down completely undermined morale and resulted in a three goal defeat. Even then escape was still possible. Opponents were fairing no better and victory in the game against Middlesbrough the following Monday, 22nd April would have been sufficient to keep the Club in Division One.

An incredible selection was made for this vital game. Peter McBride who had lost his first team place to Taylor and his reserve place to Percy Toone was brought back, presumably in the hope that his presence and experience would help cope with the tension. The choice of McBride though was a big gamble for at that time it had already been decided that his sight was failing and his playing career was over and he was about to be placed on the free transfer list.

Halfway through the first half the error of the decision was brought home with a vengeance when the goalkeeper was left standing alone against imminent relegation. Tom Rodway had halted his defence with a loud claim for offside, but the referee waved play on. It was the kind of situation a superman like McBride had saved in the past, but it was one he was obviously no longer equal to. The goal went home, and with confidence ebbing two more followed it. North End had not only lost the vital two games but had surrendered six goals to wreck any hopes of surviving on goal average.

Relegation was not confirmed until five days later when Notts County and Liverpool, both won against the odds at Woolwich and Oldham respectively.

Predictably dissident members were soon on their feet airing the view that relegation was a direct result of poor management. There were predictable jibes about the lack of action regarding acknowledged weaknesses and more enlightening comment that it was a strange selectorial process that saw all twelve directors involved in team selection. The Directors remained tight lipped, sure that the following season would see a change in fortunes. Twelve months later Chairman Alderman W. E. Ord was on his feet replying to the criticism in masterly fashion as the Club emerged as runaway champions of the Second Division. He made the point that few could really appreciate the time the Club's directors had spent scouting for young players and how one in particular, left half G. Dawson from Bedlington, had amply justified this policy.

Dawson's acquisition was only one of a series of inspired moves made by the Preston directors. Realising that the defence of Taylor, McFadyen, Rodway, Holdsworth, McCall and Wareing had few peers they concentrated their attentions on the attack. Anxious to improve their wing play they invited the amateur George Barlow back. He had last played for the Club in 1906, but dissatisfied with his opportunities he had left and it took a great deal of persuasion to bring him back to Deepdale from Everton in the winter of 1912. At outside left he displayed all his old dash, and tenacity, and introduced into the side the refreshing zeal that the true amateur often brings. Strictly orthodox, he seldom appears on the score sheet, indeed he was to score only once in twenty eight games. Nevertheless his strong running and dependable crossing served the Club well and he made a perfect foil for Morley. The right winger had no inhibitions about using his dazzling footwork in the penalty area and was a problem for any defence. Morley's best performance came on New Year's Day 1913 at Glossop, when he dazzled the Derbyshire team's defence and helped himself to a hat trick. At the end of the game a large contingent of North End fans rushed onto the field and carried him shoulder high to the dressing room.

With wing deficiencies solved at a stroke it was only continued weakness at inside forward that caused the Club doubts about eventual promotion.

McKnight could not rediscover the understanding with Morley that had been evident at the end of the previous season and soon returned to Glentoran. Kirby who had previously been a regular scorer, was too slow in thought and action and though his goal tally was eight in seventeen games, half were from the penalty spot. Playing alongside Green, who was far from the mobile attacker of his youth, the lack of pace and action was

obvious. To remedy the deficiency innovations were tried. The excellent Wareing was moved forward from half back, but his many attributes did not include the ability to lead the line. The experiment did prove to have a silver lining. In Wareing's place at left half the 18 year old Dawson proved perfectly competent and indeed his ability to attack and act as a second winger brought a new dimension to the team. Wareing who had previously been with Southport and Chorley had never really settled at Deepdale, and he joined Everton for a fee of £900 after making 9 appearances in the 1912/13 season. Part of the fee was applied to solving the inside forward problem. To replace Kirby £250 was paid to Woolwich Arsenal in November 1912 for the creative schemer Alf Common. By then a veteran he had become famous when Middlesbrough, desperate for First Division survival, paid out the first four figure transfer fee for his services. Many in the conservative football world were dismayed at the escalation in transfer fees, deriding Sunderland, who sold him as 'money grabbing hucksters'. His new club was well satisfied with the deal since he, more than anyone, ensured that Middlesbrough retained their status. Around the turn of the century Sunderland had introduced Common to their first team alongside a player well known at Deepdale in 1897/98, Colin McLatchie. In 1902 they had sold him to Sheffield United for £350 but signed him again for the same price in 1905, transforming their profit to an even greater figure when they sold him to Middlesbrough. Clever enough to have played for England, Common moved to Woolwich Arsenal in 1911 and in a stay of two and a half seasons scored twenty three goals in seventy seven games, a fair tally for a man whose prime role was creative.

Never over popular during his stay at Deepdale, Common was derided by the critics as being just as slow as Kirby. The argument overlooked his constructive qualities particularly the effect his presence had on young Halliwell, a raw novice who slotted into the problem position of centre forward and ended with ten goals in twenty two games, despite limitations in the finer points of the game.

On only one occasion did the team appear as anything other than prospective promotion material. On the 22nd February, 1913 Leeds City, playing as they had never done before, or did subsequently, tore through the ranks of McCall's defence to win 5-1 and halt a run of six consecutive away victories. The defeat had minimal impact on progress for composure was soon recovered, but it cost Herbert Taylor dear. It was generally agreed that he was favourite to be selected as goalkeeper for the English League team, but on the afternoon of the game at Leeds

the selectors chose to check his form. Taylor was not blameless in the debacle and personal honours passed him by for ever.

Promotion which was always in the offing was confirmed at the beginning of April. Spice was added to the occasion by the fact that their opponents Burnley, were lying in second place in the table and had been continually asserting that North End were extremely fortunate to be in the leading position. Public enthusiasm was thus stimulated for the fixture which was scheduled for Thursday afternoon 10th April. Every cab and wagonette in Preston was booked weeks in advance to convey mill workers straight to Deepdale and motor buses were laid on to bring people from Walton-le-Dale and other outlying districts. A large number of Burnley fans added to the feverish atmosphere, but despite the partisanship and efforts of the players, neither team could gain any advantage. The game ended inconclusively at one all. Preston's goal was scored after only three minutes when reserve right winger Luke whipped a centre over from the bye-line and the immortal Jerry Dawson, of all people, fumbled the ball over the line. William Luke had joined North End in the close season of 1912 when only nineteen and with him came John Marshall. Both had formed the right wing for Bedlington United in season 1911/12 and before that had helped Amble to win the Northumberland Minor Cup in 1909. William Luke is alive and well as this book is written and lives in Amble. He is the oldest surviving North Ender as the Club celebrates its Centenary.

Two days later promotion was certain after a single goal victory over Leicester was achieved by virtue of a similar goal from Holdsworth out on the right hand touchline. The away record was the reverse of the dismal 1911/12 season and of the nineteen League games played only three were lost and the six wins were in consecutive games.

North End made a Continental tour at the end of the season, playing nine games in Switzerland, Germany and Holland. Seven matches were won and two were drawn.

Celebrations were short lived. By 3rd January, 1914 North End were stranded at the foot of the First Division having taken a mere twelve points from twenty three matches. The half back line, the strength of the team, was torn asunder by injury. Holdsworth was soon in trouble and the other wing half, W. Henderson, a considerable prospect, soon joined him. A premature attempt at a come back by Henderson failed and his season ended around the turn of the year, not helping the plight of McCall. The magnificent little centre half injured an ankle in an international trial at Sunderland, and although he refused to

submit to the incapacity, he was seldom the player of yore, and made only twenty nine appearances. Even the granite in the defence, Charlie McFadyen suffered breaking a leg against Blackburn on Christmas Day and the gallant reserve winger Luke sustained an identical injury. The strain resulting from the loss of these accomplished players was left to fall on the veterans like Rodway, Green and Common and clearly none of them were now equal to the unenviable task.

The directors were slow to react to the situation, making far too many team changes and failing to introduce new faces. When at last radical steps were taken a doomed, disheartened team was transformed sufficiently for eighteen points to result from the last fifteen games. Only one new player was acquired. J. S. Macauley, Huddersfield's Irish International inside forward, but by uncharacteristically bleeding their young reserves, a new team spirit was evolved. J. Ford, a sprightly right winger was introduced with Morley inside him. T. A. Broome from Rochdale Town was brought in at left half and most astonishingly Fred Osborn who had come to the Club as a wing half from Leicester Fosse, was only fairly successful at inside left but when he moved to centre forward he became one of the most dangerous attackers in the country. Critics were not long in acclaiming him the best since Goodall and his twenty two goals in thirty five games, did much to justify their opinions. On several occasions the team displayed a style and fight that was truly memorable, giving spectators something to recall for many years, even in a disappointing season. On 17th January, against a Sheffield Wednesday side which included the vaunted McLean, Ford a twenty year old right winger from Bellshill Athletic who had signed in the close season, was still inexperienced but he gave a devastating display. Pre-match instruction had indicated the advantage of utilising his speed as often as possible, and inside forward Marshall heeded the advice. In the opening minute McCall robbed Wilson and found Marshall with an accurate long pass. Immediately the inside forward looked for and found Ford. Over came the cross, Brelsford headed it away and Ford eagerly seized the clearance. As the defence positioned themselves for another high cross, the centre was crossed hard and low and Osborn merely had to turn the ball over the line.

Almost immediately Marshall collected a punt up field on the half-way line and lowered his head. Charging forward he reached the penalty area before sheer weight of numbers stopped him. Still remembering instructions he flicked the ball outside for Ford. Over came the inevitable centre and Osborn taking deliberate aim, found the net again, North End had scored two

goals and the game was only three minutes old. The final score was five-nil. Osborn completed his hat trick, and Ford had a hand in almost every goal and the Deepdale crowd went home well pleased.

The other occasions to recall were first on the 7th February, 1914 when three goals in the last five minutes salvaged a point from a game against Chelsea that appeared lost beyond recall and then three weeks later a four-three victory at Burnley, after an interval deficit of two goals. Both games featured crucial last minute goals. Against Chelsea, a header by Morley struck the underside of the bar and was only allowed on the intervention of a linesman. The second was an even more curious effort by Toward, a forward signed from Oldham and who was to prove so valuable the following year, as a first class utility player. His winner was even more dramatic because Burnley had launched an attack that was ended by a courageous dive at a forward's feet by Taylor. In doing so the goalkeeper received a kick in the face which left him writhing in agony. As anxious Burnley players stooped over him, the ball was booted upfield and Toward charged from the half way line to score.

The injury was not the first sustained by Taylor who some thought was reckless but others considered him brave. The directors apparently thought him reckless because at the end of the season Charlie Jones of Northwich Victoria, the best goalkeeper in the Lancashire Combination, was signed and replaced him in the team. Not surprisingly Taylor demanded a transfer and was placed on the list together with McFadyen and Luke. With Rodway by now superseded by the experienced but impetuous W. E. Holbem, once of St. Mirren and Sheffield Wednesday, and the slim Stockport lad Fred Broadhurst at last receiving a regular run at right back, the whole of the back division had been rebuilt.

At the shareholders meeting in 1914 indignant shareholders demanded a more progressive policy, the appointment of a team manager and the movement of the Club's office from the town centre to the ground.

War broke out during the 1914/15 season and the Football League was ill prepared for the catastrophe. Problems were particularly acute in the Second Division, where only the establishment of a fund to help the hard pressed enabled the season's fixtures to be completed. Preston were able to proudly point out at the end of the season that they had never had need to use the fund but it was very much in the Club's interest to keep football alive. Standards dropped alarmingly and only North End and Derby, the relegated clubs, had any assemblance of

class. Even so another poor start generated pessimism. Troubled by nagging injuries Ford and Osborn, who had assumed an importance in the Preston side that was inconceivable only twelve months previously, were reduced to shadows of their former selves.

The directors swapped and changed the team continually, and because the playing staff was small this inevitably meant that players were continually playing in unaccustomed positions. With the classy Holdsworth out of form and ineffective, results were poor. The directors could not agree on a goalkeeper, so that Jones, Hayes and Newton alternated until it was decided that the first named was the best, a fact that most fans had agreed six months previously. By the 2nd January, 1915 the playing record read P 21, W 8, D 6, L 7, F 26, A 28 - Points 22, hardly promotion form and when January produced only one goal thoughts of moving up had receded. However, on 11th February, came an inspired team change which proved to be the solution that the directors had been searching for all season. Morley was again moved to partner Ford and once again produced the magic footwork that won matches. Ford ran with new zest and Osborn and MacCauley, who both had a tendency to lower their heads and rush at goal, found that they could operate at much closer range. Dawson was moved to the left wing for which he had always shown a marked inclination and although sometimes in trouble when confronted by an opponent, could be relied upon to run hard and cross strongly.

Bristol City were the first victims of the transformed side, beaten by four goals to one, the start of a run that brought the Club zooming up the table. Ten consecutive victories made promotion a foregone conclusion and successive draws clinched it mathematically. Even the championship had not eluded the Club's grasp. On the final day of the season they visited the Baseball Ground to play Derby County for the title. Ironically the year before the clubs had met in somewhat similar circumstances to decide who was to hold the wooden spoon. On that occasion Preston had won by the only goal. This time reaction from their long unbeaten run was very evident. Continually playing the ball high for Osborn they were thwarted by the superb headwork of the giant Eadie and for once the wingers were not resourceful enough to change the tactics. On the other hand the Derby wingers Grimes and Baker led Preston's defence a merry dance, creating a goal in each half to bring the Championship to Derbyshire.

North End had completed four seasons aptly described as the 'Yo-Yo' era and League football was then cocooned until 1919 when the slaughter of youth, which included players and fans had ended.

Chapter 4

Don't Make Back Passes

Our Goalie Wears Glasses

For many clubs August 1919 was too soon to re-activate the Football League. The war ravaged years had disrupted planning and left all struggling to cope with the sudden prospect of competitive football. Preston North End were neither worse nor better placed than most others. Wartime football had nurtured little new talent and amongst the remaining old favourites were many players who by reasons of age or fitness were suspect. Without a clear policy of a dynamic visionary at the helm the Club stumbled into a new era.

The Country as a whole greeted the big kick off with subdued enthusiasm. War's tragedy had brought gruesome perspective to life and football was no longer a priority in the national interest. Even though the attendances were markedly increased, a result of the relief following the end of hostilities and the improvement to standards over the war-time games, there was no evidence of excessive jubilation from public or press.

Accordingly Preston's first trial played in weather 'unsuitable for vigorous exercise' was an occasion for nostalgia rather than futuristic thought. The chance to see again the majestic McCall organise a regular rather than impromptu side and to note that the indomitable Fred Osborn had recovered from the wounds received when serving with the Leicester Howitzer Brigade, were more paramount considerations than the unhappy portents of a forward line that refused to combine. The North End manager Vincent Hayes had not been inactive during the summer and a tally of signings that would have made a complete team were on view. The newcomers did not contain any well known names, they had mainly been cautious, inauspicious signings, but they were mainly attackers. Two of the debutants expected to be most prominent were on view, Tatton a right winger and the Welsh inside forward Stanley Davies. A third, the Irish international W. Halligan once of Derby, Leeds City, Wolves and Hull was not

able to participate in the game. Predictably some of the lesser known signings showed greater application. Tiny Roland Woodhouse from Leyland threw his five feet five inches into the fray with rubber ball resilience and claimed five goals.

William Thomas Roberts first came to Deepdale as a nineteen year old in 1919, on the strength of his goal scoring displays for Handforth in the Birmingham and District Amateur League. During the war he represented Leicester Fosse and Southport Central, the former acquiring an interest in him and North End had to pay £500 to bring him to Deepdale. No player in war time football scored more goals than Roberts.

Woodhouse indeed could have been forgiven for believing that his efforts deserved better recognition, for in the second trial he scored again whilst his supposed superiors again failed, but was not selected for the opening game at Blackburn. Content to back his judgment that brought the better known players to Deepdale and prepared to forgive their efforts in the insipid trial, the manager chose a forward line which included Tatton, Davies and Halligan, in company with Osborn and left winger Daniel.

The combination was on paper only. Before a crowd whose numbers were slightly less than anticipated the Rovers coolly and composedly took Preston apart. The final margin was four goals to one but even that disaster could have been worse. Causer somehow managed to stop a penalty from Shea, and McCall worked himself to exhaustion to keep the score within reasonable limits. Before the war Causer had kept goal for Glossop North End, but the club foundered when the League was resumed.

There was, however, little despondency. Blackburn had been the greatest team in the country immediately before the war and Preston consoled themselves with the knowledge that such good opposition would not be met every week. Within a week this reasoning proved more wishful thinking. Blackburn were found to be not only mortal but vulnerable. Their great team had been decimated by the lost years and they were no longer a yardstick for any club to measure standards by. Bradford City, sparked by the familiar figure of Dickie Bond underlined North End's plight. On Wednesday, 1st September in the season's first game at Deepdale they ran in five goals in the first thirty-five minutes and then sat back content to watch the pitiful attempts of the Preston forwards. By the time the third game of the season had brought the first point, a goalless draw with a Blackburn side who played most of the game with ten men (the immortal Crompton finding his thirty nine year old limbs unequal to the task) it was crystal clear that changes were required urgently.

The management acted quickly and realistically faced the

situation. The new players had fallen well short of expectations and Halligan, who had been a seasoned player for years, was immediately dropped and was quickly joined by Davies. Perhaps in the latter case, the action and the subsequent discarding of the player may have been too hasty. Davies was only twenty two and had suffered a long, arduous war, during which his personal courage had been recognised by the award of the Mons Medal, Military Medal and Croix de Guerre. If he had been permitted a gradual return to normal life it could well have paid the Club dividends. Certainly Everton who bought him in 1920 for £4,000 were well satisfied with his service and Wales continued to cap him for a decade in which he played for West Bromwich Albion, Cardiff and Rotherham. At the Hawthorns he achieved the respect of the management that had eluded him at Deepdale. A mercurial mover, with dazzling footwork and lightning shot he was always popular with the crowd at all venues. The West Bromwich management were prepared to tolerate the vagaries of his form and in return drew the best from him. Tatton and Halligan preceded Davies in leaving Deepdale, both joining Oldham allowing North End to acquire the wingers they had been searching for from the start of the season. First to add his weight to what was now a relegation fight was the forceful Bainbridge. A Leeds City player he had the unique and enviable distinction of being put up for auction along with his team mates when his club was unable to resolve its financial problems and dissolved. On the other flank came a sprightly Irishman E. J. Kerr. Both men were to find success for only a short time and did not see the season out.

That North End pulled away from the bottom of the division was testimony to the proven worth of McCall ably assisted by wing halves Lee and Dawson, the scoring flair of the newly blooded Woodhouse and Roberts and the ineptitude of some of the other clubs. Sheffield Wednesday were a poor side and Blackburn, Notts County, Derby, Oldham and Everton were little better. With such a low standard, odd points gathered here and there were sufficient to point the way to salvation even if the movement of players to and from Deepdale was a sign that all was far from well. New blood came from a variety of sources. Charlie Jones arrived back after three and a half years with the Army in India to reclaim his goalkeeping position that had been shared between Causar, Whalley and Foot, without any achieving consistency. Another soldier T. Threlfall came into the full back position until a serious injury forced him into the care of the eminent Liverpool surgeon Sir Robert Jones. Young locals such as the nineteen year old left winger James Green and W.

Greatorex, a full back discovered in a youth trial a week before the season began, received their chance and the latter took it well, progressing from the second team to the first in half a season and thereafter retaining his place. Some of the old players who had been in ill health following the war, recovered slowly and displayed well trusted ability as the season progressed, Holdsworth and Osborn were examples of this slow rehabilitation and although the years had stripped them of some of their quality, no one provided greater effort in North End's cause.

Without one man even the heroics of these unlikely recruits would have been unavailing. Joe McCall at the heart of the defence produced the kind of captaincy that earned him a place as one of North End's all time greats. Although often clearly unfit, he bore the brunt of the strain with resilience and was a great leader who raised the flagging spirits of his players, on many occasions. Accordingly when it was known that he was in dispute with the Club shortly before Christmas 1919 there was a major crisis in Preston. Acting with necessary urgency the directors summoned a Board meeting for the same night and when that was adjourned in deadlock reconvened it the following morning. Happily the situation was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties and clearly there was no way in which the directors would allow the paths of Club and player to diverge.

There had been a great deal of home spun analysis over the Club's failure and the consensus of opinion was that the wingers were the direct cause of lack of cohesion in the forward line. It was not a view that found confirmation in official circles, indeed the directors could rightly point out that two sets of wingers Tatton and Daniel, Bainbridge and Kerr had failed to alter the situation, and that the cause might lie in the poor service from the inside forwards Woodhouse and Davies had many champions who admired the dash of one and the sheer skill of the other but both lacked perception and vision in utilising the abilities of team mates. With Roberts at centre forward devoted solely to the task of scoring goals, it was not surprising that the wingers were starved of the ball. The enigma of Roberts troubled the directors deeply. Full of nervous tension he would complain continually before a game of aches and injuries, but was a changed man once he ran out on the field and using his deadly left foot. Back in the dressing room he would revert again to his old self, objecting to the passes he did or didn't receive, concerned about minor knocks and strains. This mental approach was probably the reason why he failed to lead the line in the way the management and some fans expected. He was a perfectionist and worried a great deal

about any fall from the highest standards. Many would have liked to see him superceded by someone of a more equitable temperament but his goal scoring ability made this a very risky course to pursue.

On one occasion it was thought best to relegate Roberts to the reserves but without him the forward line lost any semblance of penetration and he was quickly restored. The move created rancour with the player who in March asked to be allowed to leave, but good diplomacy by the Board kept him at Deepdale as he was about to join Manchester United and he was a North End stalwart for years playing 254 League games and scoring 179 goals in seven seasons of service broken by two seasons at Burnley.

In January the deficiencies were solved in the manner the directors had hoped they would be, by the acquisition of one man who could coax the best out of the latent talent available, and make the forward line play as a unit. He was an inside forward, long past his best, a very knowledgeable old 'pro' and one who knew how to feed a winger with a plentiful supply of the ball. It had been hoped that McCall would have performed this function more often but he had been forced to defend rather more frequently and hence his famed long pass was seen far less than before. When the inside forwards displayed no signs of assuming this task the search for a ball playing inside forward had been extended. The man selected was Frank Jefferis of Everton, a player at his peak before the war when he had been twice capped for England. Born in Fordingbridge, he first club had been Southampton. He had always been a quick alert player with a cunning ability to pass the ball with precision. As he grew older his play became more subtle and he was quick to realise that he could prolong his career by utilising the skills of others. Indeed it was in the coaching direction that he was convinced his future lay and he had already intimated to the Everton directors that he would prefer to coach the youngsters rather than play in the first team. Everton anxious to rejuvenate their side, did not stand in his way and he came to Deepdale on the understanding that as soon as the crisis had eased he would be allowed to continue with the Club as coach to the Central League side. On his recommendation, Preston acquired his Everton wing partner James Miller, who had been allowed to join Coventry City. The pair were re-united on the 17th January, 1920 in the game against Middlesbrough at Deepdale and immediately fortunes changed. Four consecutive victories were the start of a great run that gained twelve points from an unbeaten seven games. The pupils of "Teacher" Jefferis had responded magnificently to banish

relegation fears. As if to underline the debt due to him when he was injured and missed the next four games, all were lost. To heighten the anxiety Blackburn who like Sheffield Wednesday, appeared doomed, began a determined drive for safety. Helped by some expensive purchases they produced a blend that gained points from games that appeared beyond their compass, and slowly but surely moved towards safety. Meanwhile North End plummeted down the table. Again the Club's debt to Jefferis was underlined. Recovering from injury he added composure to the side and figured prominently in victories in the next two games. Sheffield United were beaten two-nil (both goals scored by Roberts) and Sunderland were defeated three-two (Roberts, Woodhouse and Peter Quinn, a £3,000 left winger from Blackpool). Blackburn's success had brought the five clubs immediately above them back into the relegation conflict.

At this tense and vital period North End lost precious points at Sunderland where McCall was an absentee. Although barely fit, the great leader was rushed back for two games against Arsenal. Torrid affairs they were, but McCall's influence was never more needed. The point won from each game was by virtue of the defence alone. With one game to play relegation was still in the balance. Preston and Notts County each had thirty six points, the Rovers had one fewer. All were committed to go out and play for a win.

Sixteen minutes from the start of the final game against Everton at Goodison, the Second Division was looming. Kirsopp had been tripped in the area by full back George Speak and the Everton captain Dickie Downs came up to take the penalty. As Causer crouched determined to emulate his performance of the season's opening day, Downs trotted gently in and to the relief of the Preston players and fans drove the ball into the crowd. Ten minutes later the left foot of Tommy Roberts swung and North End were safe, winning 1-0. Blackburn defeating Sheffield United by four goals performed a Houdini act, leaving a bewildered Notts County, torn apart by the wiles of the immortal Meredith to be relegated with Sheffield Wednesday. Had the Preston score been reversed the Club would have had identical points and goal average as Notts County. Indeed only the generosity of opponents from the penalty spot saved North End. Of eight spot kicks conceded, only two were converted.

For a decade the precedents created in that trouble filled season were to remain the standard. Twice the gloom was to be lifted by great F.A. Cup runs though each occasion was to end in disappointment. Twice after the almost inevitable loss of First Division status the genius of that chubby little Scottish wizard

Alex James was almost able to inspire promotion, but it was to be a decade of decline.

There are many reasons that can be advanced for the failures, which in isolation would be too simplistic or trite, but together they painted a picture of a failing club. A succession of managers came and went. Following Vincent Hayes were Jimmy Lawrence, Frank Richards, Alex Gibson and Lincoln Hyde. None influenced proceedings, though to be fair to the individuals concerned their powers were far removed and more limited than those given to present day managers. Team selection, tactics and new players were ultimately the responsibility of the directors. The manager might or might not be consulted, his prime role was one of organisation and inspiration on an impromptu basis. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that none was able to exact any charisma on the Club's affairs though Lawrence could be directly credited with a move that was to stand North End in good stead. Soon after his appointment in 1923 he asked his assistant at his previous club South Shields, to join him at Deepdale. Will Scott was then only twenty nine, but he had already had three years experience as assistant trainer and masseur, duties he undertook whilst remaining a player. The North Eastern side were then a Second Division club (they changed their name to Gateshead in 1930) and the experience gained was invaluable. Officially head trainer and masseur at Deepdale, he retained this position under a variety of managers until Tom Muirhead left on the 30th June, 1937. Even then he was merely appointed supervisor, but his influence on the Club's fortunes was more marked than any of his predecessors. North End's directors were not then prepared to relinquish any decision making and simply wanted advice from whoever they employed to look after the side. Scott whose terms of employment stated that he was responsible for the supervision of all staff work outside the office, was philosophical enough to tolerate the situation and his equitable temperament permitted him to continue in a role that many would have found hard to deal with. He had a quiet, natural dignity that no one, not even the dictatorial James Taylor, who was to become the Club's chairman, could ruffle. The story is told that when the great 'J. I' shouted "Scott" the trainer would pay heed, but not before he had gently pointed out that "Mr. Scott", would be a more gentlemanly form of address. In liaising between the Board and players, Scott had a difficult function to perform without a great deal of authority. To his credit and Preston's fortune he performed the task with distinction.

The fall of the Club's fortunes was linked with the industrial instability of the town itself, the decline of the cotton trade dealt wealth and spending power a severe blow. The number unemployed was so high that they organised their own football competition, the Thursday Unemployed League, a venture that North End supported by playing friendly games to raise funds. The effect of such widespread poverty was that gate receipts slumped considerably and the Club plunged further into financial trouble. Paradoxically they did not hold back from entering the transfer market but never again found the golden touch that had brought Jefferis to the Club. For example in three seasons, mindful of the fact that McCall and Jefferis were fading fast, Laird of Rangers, Gilchrist of Celtic and Forrest of Clyde were brought down to strengthen the half back line. Although all had big reputations not one stayed longer than a season. The first two were not found unsatisfactory in their playing ability, but were released following breaches of training rules.

To exacerbate a parlous financial situation the Deepdale ground was a recurring problem. Tiny, cramped and continually in need of renovation, it restricted funds being made available for team building. Immediately after the war a start was made on improvements when a stout barrier with concrete pillars was built in front of the paddock. From then on the expenditure continued unabated. In 1921/22 when receipts from Cup-ties alone reached £8,445 swelling total gate money to £34,005 a record that stood for years, ground improvements when the Cop was extended and covered had cost £19,551 and helped to reduce the profit to £2,870. If funds of this magnitude had been spent on players then events might have taken a different course.

In these circumstances the Cup runs of 1920/21 and 1921/22 were welcome as much for the proceeds as the glory. Consecutive Cup runs would appear to indicate a level of consistency but the League record does nothing to confirm such a theory. In League games the defects were alarming. No consistently sound goalkeeper could be found. The full backs were poor, McCall was showing signs of feeling his advancing years and different attempts to solve the problems didn't prove fruitful. Fortunately the forward line was of more than average calibre, Jefferis had taught Woodhouse, Roberts and Quinn the virtue of playing as a unit and when the right wing flyer Archie Rawlings joined North End from Dundee in 1920, attacking problems were at an end. The suave, handsome Rawlings was frequently cited as another example of the Club's preference for the Scot. This was mistaken and resulted from the player's spell over the Border. In fact he was a Derbyshire man from the grimy village of Shirebrook.

Preston had not spotted him in Scotland but during the war when he was a guest player for Rochdale and had impressed the then manager of North End, Vincent Hayes. He was ideally suited to act as a foil for Jefferis. He had superb acceleration, was quick to see an opening and could cross accurately. Rawlings could also dazzle with his nimble footwork and indeed was later to become a ball playing inside forward.

To strengthen the defence the Bradford City pair Alex 'Sandy' Doolan and George Waddell arrived. Both were experienced Scots, not of the highest calibre but sound, dogged players able to plug the gaps at left back and right half respectively even if their prospective service would of necessity be curtailed by the limitations of age. Thankfully the Preston reserves appeared to be producing talent for the future.

Billy Mercer, a local lad, and Tom Duxbury from Accrington, were splendid wing halves and G. Speak a left back from Blackburn, was steadily increasing in stature. Speak was one of the few players who did not take lodgings in the town. Resident in Cltheroe he preferred to undertake the daily journey on his motor bike and sidecar.

Mindful of the fact that the future prospects of youngsters might be harmed by their premature exposure in First Division games the Club entered the transfer market in earnest. On the 23rd February, 1921, they paid £4,600 a Club record, for the Kilmarnock right back Tom Hamilton. A lusty striker of the ball and a keen tackler he was to be rated the best full back eligible for the Scottish team for many years but inexplicably never played for his country.

Joining him in the defence in a far less conspicuous move was a new goalkeeper, an amateur J. F. Mitchell who had played before the war for Blackpool. His move to Deepdale was one of the few times when he was not the centre of attraction for few players were as conspicuous. There was still a mythology centring around the game's few amateurs and as a war time graduate of Manchester University, Mitchell warranted more attention than most, since high academic qualifications were rare amongst footballers at that time. In 1909 North End, for a short period, fielded an Oxford undergraduate, George Roche of Northern Nomads. Mitchell's methods were to say the least unorthodox, for he used his feet as much as his hands. Finally there was the feature that preserved him in North End folk lore far more than his services ever warranted, he sported spectacles on the field of play. Wearing spectacles was an uncommon enough sight among outfield players, but only one other goalkeeper playing in the early twenties wore them. Mitchell was a teacher at Arnold

House School, Blackpool and his duties resulted in him missing many North End games and his services were both sporadic and erratic. It cost him his team position after the first two ties of the 1920/21 F.A. Cup campaign, a commendable two-nil victory over Bolton and a four-one win against Watford. In his place came Causer the ex Glossop player and the only goalkeeper in the history of the League to have played for two teams named North End. He first appeared in the three-two victory at Luton and retained his place for the quarter final at Hull on the 5th March, where his display ensured his selection for the remainder of the season, for as Hull continually bore down on his goal he was in outstanding form. At times the Hull players appeared to be queuing for shots at goal but Causer was the man for all occasions and the player responsible for North End leaving Humberstone with a 0-0 draw. The replay at Deepdale finally convinced the directors that the Deepdale ground was inadequate for their needs. The gates had to be closed seventy five minutes before the kick off and thousands were locked out. They missed a tight stalemate broken only once when Jefferis wriggled free of his marker to convert a cross from Rawlings, after the winger had left three men trailing in a run from the half way line.

The semi-final at Hillsborough was a great anticlimax. North End had a score to settle with their opponents Tottenham, but they were never in the game. A blank score line at half time was as unrepresentative of the dominance of Spurs as was possible. Twice the Londoner's forward Banks had goals disallowed because advantage wasn't played and free kicks were awarded to Spurs for fouls by Preston players. In addition Dimmock hit the cross bar with a drive of savage power. The second half saw no shift in supremacy. Bert Bliss volleyed the first goal and then swept home Grimsdell's pass for a second. A fortuitous goal by Jefferis that struck Clay on its way into the net was neither sufficient to bring an equaliser or even to make a fight of the game.

Later on in the season there was a fitting tribute to an old servant Percy Smith when the two clubs he had played for North End and Blackburn, played a game for his benefit. The greater part of his footballing career had been with North End. Arguably the best was with Rovers. Later Smith was to become a football manager, with considerable success, laying the foundations of Tottenham's climb to fame.

Having tasted Cup success the next Cup run was a priority, indeed all attempts were channelled into ensuring that the Club again progressed on the long road to the Final. A mounting injury list completely halted any endeavours to make a showing

in the League, this deciding the Club's priorities. During the height of the Cup campaign the almost farcical situation existed where the regular full backs Hamilton and Doolan were injured so frequently that they played only in Cup ties, leaving Yates and Speak to deputise in the League. An injury in the first round of the Cup, played at Deepdale against Wolves on the 7th January, 1922 also cost the Club the valuable services of the promising wing half Billy Mercer, ending an impressive partnership with Tom Duxbury and his power in the air was sorely missed.

In these circumstances a run that took the Club to the Final was impressive, particularly since after comfortable victories over Wolves and Newcastle the ties became gruelling. Barnsley out-played North End at Oakwell, but North End were at their most durable and held on for a goalless draw. A replay victory was made easier when Barnsley's rough play resulted in the sending off of their right back. The next round at Arsenal found the Gunners below strength due to injuries. The away draw that resulted was always the likeliest result but the expected formality of the replay was disturbed when Arsenal snatched an early goal. It was a considerable time before Roberts equalised and extra time was simply a test of stamina in cloying mud. Fortunately North End obtained a quick goal to ensure their passage to the next round.

After a tragic mistake by Tommy Hamilton had presented Seed with an easy goal in the semi final, Preston could have been excused for believing that lightning does strike twice. The venue was again Hillsborough and the opponents were Tottenham, an exact replica of the 1921 semi final. The vital first goal again going to the Southerners left North End's prospects bleak, but the side was more resilient this time. Rawlings raced onto an immaculate through pass from Jefferis to sweep home the equaliser and the trusty left foot of Tommy Roberts sent North End through to their first Final since 1889.

There was an unhappy sequel to the tie. Two Preston players were found guilty of breaches of discipline following the game. One apologised, the other, Rawlings, refused, as a consequence of which he was suspended sine die. Obviously the term had a different interpretation at Deepdale for the player missed only two games before reappearing on the team sheet.

The game at Stamford Bridge in 1922 was one of the worst ever Finals. Ironically one split second has crystallised it for posterity. A drab, undistinguished game was winding its dismal way into oblivion when Billy Smith, Huddersfield's long legged, loping left winger slipped Hamilton's challenge and headed for the penalty area. Doggedly Hamilton chased Smith but was unable to get

closer than a yard. As the white line that marked the edge of the area loomed, Hamilton gathered himself for a last desperate lunge and cynically and deliberately tripped Smith. That it was a foul there can be no dispute. That the winger finally came to earth inside the penalty area is also undeniable, but all present believed that the actual trip was made a yard outside the box. All that is, except the referee Mr. Fowler. His admonishing finger pointed unerringly to the spot and remained that way despite a series of protests and tantrums from the Preton players. Even when the indignant players were finally cleared from the area the acrimony was not abated. As Smith ran up to take the penalty kick, Fred Mitchell started to jump up and down and gesticulate wildly in an astonishing display of gamesmanship. The cool professional Smith was completely unruffled and made no mistake with his kick.

Of all the officials questioned after the match only one Mr. C. E. Sutcliffe believed that the incident should have resulted in a penalty. Bob Holmes, the Old Invincible was quoted as saying that the penalty was the end of a very poor afternoon's work by the referee. Particularly annoying to the North End fans, was an incident when Tommy Roberts in a good shooting position was stopped by the referee because a North End player was down injured.

Yet again the Cup had brought anti-climax to the Club and the position was further exacerbated by the certainty that two key men, Jefferis and McCall, were clearly at the end of their careers. McCall had been in and out all season with a succession of injuries, but the value of his presence had been demonstrated when he was rushed back for the Cup replay with Arsenal. The Final had brought criticism of his play for the first time in his long illustrious career. Many felt that although he was the classiest man on field he had tried to perform more than he was capable of and that this was a contributory factor to the inept display of wingers Rawlings and Quinn. The complaints might have demoralised a lesser man, but McCall was made of sterner stuff and at the end of the season he signed for another year. Jefferis received the position he had demanded when signing, stepping down to the Central League to take over reserve team coaching. Ironically once again he was to be denied the opportunity to coach for long. He was soon at Southport, performing an identical role to that which he had played at Deepdale - prompter to the first team attack. In preparation for the break up of the team that the directors had realised was imminent, the latter half of the 1921/22 season had been spent in recruiting new blood. Jimmy Branston, the brilliant Rotherham County goalkeeper

had been signed to solve the goalkeeping problem of who warranted selection, Mitchell or Causer. Both displaced men moved on to Manchester City and Birmingham respectively. Jimmy Ferris, Chelsea's Irish international wing or inside forward was signed on the same day as Branston and George Sapsford was brought from Old Trafford as the intended replacement for Jefferis. Two of the signings evoked displeasure from the football authorities. Sapsford was played before his registration was completed and Branston's contract had a clause offering to pay his removal expenses, a practice contrary to F.A. rules. For each offence Preston were fined five guineas.

Before the 1922/23 season began the farmer's lad Alf Quantrill who was Steve Bloomer's son-in-law, was signed from Derby. An England international he had been born in India where he lived until he was six. He had risen to prominence in the season before the war when he had deputised on County's left wing for Baker. During the war he matured rapidly and even playing in a poor Derby side he displayed such good form that he was capped for England when normal football was resumed. The move brought Quantrill no luck. Within a month of the start of the season 1922/23 a serious knee injury put him out of the game for a long spell. He was followed to the side lines by Sapsford, who fractured an ankle and the forward line became a kaleidoscope of change. Quinn left for Bury, and Rawlings for Liverpool. In their place came Aitken, a premature bald right wing flyer from Newcastle and George Harrison an English international from Everton. A succession of Scots flitted in and out of the half back line from which McCall was absent more and more. His regular post war deputy had been Marshall who had been signed from Southport, but though he had been at Deepdale since mid-way through season 1919/20 his infrequent appearances in the first team had not equipped him for the task ahead. It was perhaps typical of the fortunes of the game that the Scot who arrived with the least reputation should prove to be the best of the bunch. Bobby Crawford who arrived from the junior club with the unforgettable name of Glenbuck Cherrypickers, took over the left half position almost by default and was to retain it for a long time. His outstanding service during eleven seasons at Deepdale, included 392 League games.

All the full backs, Hamilton, Doolan, Yates and Speak commenced to fade and by the time even the brilliant Branston lost form the team had disintegrated completely, in just three years.

In 1924 a financial crisis took the demolition one stage further. With the bank pressing for the reduction of the Club's overdraft,



J. I. TAYLOR

Served North End from 1912 to 1950 except for a four year break between 1912-25. Elected Chairman 23rd August, 1938. became President 15th March, 1950.



top left

A. JAMES

Signed in 1925 from Raith Rovers.
Two footed wizard with the ball.
Scottish International.

top right

W. T. ROBERTS

Known as one of the most
dangerous centre forwards of the
day. In eight seasons scored 173
goals in League football including
29 in a short spell with Burnley.

bottom left

R. CRAWFORD

Made 392 appearances for North
End, at one stage missing only
one game in seven seasons before
leaving for Blackpool in 1932.



pictured right

G. HARRISON

Outside left, came to North End from Everton, known as the 'Penalty King' converting 25 out of 29 penalties.



pictured left

R. WOODHOUSE

Born in Leyland, one of the smallest, lightest and pluckiest forwards in the game.



PRESTON NORTH END 1922 CUP FINAL TEAM

Back Row L/R: T. Hamilton, T. Duxbury, F. Mitchell, J. McCall, A. Doolan, J. Williamson.
Front Row L/R: A. Rawlings, F. Jefferis, T. Roberts, R. Woodhouse, P. Quinn.

the main asset, Tommy Roberts, had to be sold to Burnley. Having scored more than a hundred goals for the Club at a seasonal average of twenty five he had matured into a far more complete player whose future had seemed tied to Deepdale. Even the England selectors had paid tribute to his ability by selecting him for the International against Wales in 1924.

That relegation was foreseeable in the circumstances is not surprising but it is hard to imagine what steps could have been taken to prevent it.

The forwards despite the addition of two new men, Barnes of Manchester City and Patterson from Sunderland, were unable to score, the only regular goalscorer being Harrison, who scored the majority of his goals by virtue of his deadly accuracy from the penalty spot. The defence was no more efficient. On the 17th January, 1925 Joe McCall made his last League appearance for the Club. He was never adequately replaced and the defence conceded goals just as surely as the forwards squandered them. The final descent was not finalised without its lighter side. Prout, an angular goalkeeper from Dalton in Furness, who had been recommended by Percy Smith, was cast as comedian. Surely one of the thinnest players to ever walk on a field, his lanky frame was a cartoonist's delight. One cartoonist remarking 'life at Deepdale appears to be suiting him, he looks to have put on an ounce'. Cartoon artists could have had a field day after the vital game against Sheffield United which the Club had to win to keep any hope of survival. Clearing the ball upfield, Prout drove the kick against Boyle who was stood with his back to North End's goal, the ball rebounded into the net for the game's only goal. The only man to emerge with credit from the Deepdale debacle was a left back with an unusual yet faintly familiar name. James Phizacklea who joined the Club from Third Division Nelson, had his name mistaken as an incorrect spelling of the more common Preston name of Fazackerley on more than one occasion. He proved a sterling defender who possessed a rare ability to strike his clearance kicks cleanly and powerfully.

The sole redeeming feature of this disastrous season that brought Second Division football to Deepdale, prompted the resignation of the Secretary, Walter Atkinson and Manager Jimmy Lawrence and produced a meagre twenty six points, was that the problem of the bank overdraft was finally solved sufficiently for Chairman Mr. Alec Foster to assure the shareholders before the next season began, that freed of the encumbrance, steps would be taken to restore the Club to a position they deemed more fitting to their tradition. Attention was paid to the changes in tactical formations that had occurred

in football. Herbert Chapman had introduced the third back game and Preston belatedly decided to follow suit. Without the last of the great roving centre halves, McCall, the way was now clear to do so and the Club decided to enter the transfer market and obtain players who could play in the newly fashioned W-M formation. First to arrive were the deep lying inside forwards, Willie Russell of Airdrie and Scotland and Alex James of Raith Rovers. Both were on the verge of the Scottish side, but to penetrate its ranks was a considerable task. The forward line of Jackson, Dunn, Gallacher, Cairns and Morton had been primarily responsible for a one hundred per cent record in the Home International Championship and change was unthinkable. What is surprising in view of the subsequent events is that when one change was made, it was Russell not James who replaced Dunn. Surprising because it is often assumed that James was the star at the time the transfers were made. More talented he might have been, but he did not have the disciplined artistry that brings results. James was the entertainer and comedian extraordinary, more concerned with enjoying his game than seeking honours. He was a chunky, chubby faced character, far removed from the sleek well groomed figure he was to become a decade later at Arsenal. His hair was cropped close to the back and sides and on top it was like a 'crew cut'. His eyes twinkled with fun and he reflected his appearance in his play. Undisciplined, deliberately contrary, his reputation was widely known, and at twenty three and in his fourth season with Raith he could well have expected a top English club to sign him. However, like the Scottish national selectors they had reservations about his attitude, which permitted North End to step in while other dithered and pay the considerable sum of £3,250 for his services in June 1925. The signing of Russell who had a greater reputation for industry and application was North End's insurance policy against the mercurial qualities of James not fitting in with the rest of the forwards.

If policy dictated that the side change to the in vogue formation, the players were still a long way from taking to the new system. Rushed to Middlesbrough by car for his debut, James found that the rest of the side did not appear to have realised he had joined them. On a dry, bumpy pitch they insisted on playing their normal game, which consisted of booting the ball as far and as high as possible. James and the great Hughie Gallacher had both learned their football in the streets of Bellshill, Glasgow with a rubber ball. Close control was their forte and a puzzled James began to wonder where he fitted in the Preston plans. His laconic after match comment was "Ye'd better

be gieing me a ticket back home. I canna play fitba' wi' the baw up in the air most of the time'.

Many spectators thought that the Club had bought a pig in a poke, but with the help of Russell, the little Scot changed their views. Their inside forward partnership blossomed into brilliance, but there was increasing evidence that the rest of the side still had no appreciation of the novel tactical formation. In this respect the directors had made a mistake. Deep lying inside forwards were only half of the radical alteration within a W-M formation. The other urgent need was a stopper centre half. Able to defeat most teams at Deepdale but virtually pointless away from home it was obvious that defensive deficiencies would have to be remedied to enable hopes of promotion to be seriously entertained. In December 1926, a Club record fee of £4,700 brought Raith centre half Dave Morris to Deepdale and pushed spending to a staggering £12,468. Even the acquisition of this towering competitor did not improve the away form and eleven consecutive away defeats were proof that the team lacked the character which breeds success.

It was one of football's mysteries why the team never developed the co-hesion that was planned. The left wing of James and Harrison was a perfect example. Theirs should have been a great success. James not then sporting the long baggy shorts for which he became famed, with his dapper footwork, ability to slant a pass and his deceptively strong shot appeared ideally suited to play alongside Harrison who was fast, direct and shot hard and true with his left foot. The theory was that James would win the ball in mid field, find Harrison out on the wing, and the resulting centre would be put away by the centre forward. James however, was not a ball winner. Indeed he is reputed to have said "I am never going to chase an opponent in possession of the ball". He also took up a position deep in his own half, so far from the winger that even his unique ability to bend a cross field pass round an opponent was nullified. Nor was Harrison without blame. Too frequently he wandered from his wing hoping to find a position where he could use his lethal left foot, but leaving James with the difficult task of keeping track of his movements.

Seeking further goal scoring ability Tommy Roberts was brought back from Burnley. His stay away from Deepdale had produced a very moderate goal scoring record (twenty nine in two seasons) and he was anxious to prove that it was Burnley, not himself, who were to blame for his inability to find the net. He arrived at Deepdale as the team finally began to come to terms with their new style and quickly began a fine understanding with James that was to take his personal tally of League goals to 157.

By the time the 1927/28 season began the Club had recovered composure enough to be regarded as well on the way to respectability. Morris had proved to be a dour defender, particularly strong in the air and very dangerous at dead ball situations around an opponent's penalty area. A new goalkeeper Anthony Carr once of Sheffield Wednesday but signed from Seaton Deleval had a safe pair of hands and Billy Wade settled down in the full back position, subsequently to be joined by a great character, Jasper Kerr, a cheery Scot from Everton. Learning from Russell's practical outlook James managed at last to come to terms with his wing partner Harrison and the pair became one of the finest wings in the game. Only a marked lack of ability on the opposite wing prevented the team being a fully balanced unit. If a former player Tom Gillespie had returned as promised from the United States of America the problems might have been at an end. However, the Scot who had joined the gold rush to the States to play for Bethlehem Steel, did not arrive on the boat on which he notified the directors he had booked a passage. Fortunately the reception party did not wait, which proved a wise decision since it was five years before Gillespie was back at Deepdale.

Unbalanced as the forward line was the Club were able to put their talent to good purpose. They led the table until the 14th March, 1927, when a re-arranged League game at Barnsley produced double tragedy. The side was beaten three-nil and Tommy Roberts driving home across the Pennines was involved in a road accident that left him with a broken leg. Without his scoring power a dramatic slump resulted. Two of the next four games brought defeat and hopes were unceremoniously buried at Nottingham Forest following a 7-0 defeat. The poor end of the season form effectively hid the fact that it had been North End's most successful post war effort.

If doubts still existed in Preston about the wisdom of the centre back game, none were evident at Board level. When a shareholder rose at the Club's Annual General Meeting to question the tactics, he was told that such considerations should be left to the directors. Transfer action that could only be regarded as endorsement of the tactics was conducted in the close season. A new right winger Alec Reid, a speed merchant with the ability to cut inside and shoot hard, completed the forward line and the South Shields wing half James Metcalf came into the defence. For most of the previous season Russell and Sidney Chandler had alternated between right half and inside right and the signing of a specialist was to allow Russell to revert to his normal position.

The rapport was near perfection. Reid and Harrison literally ran rival full backs off their feet, and neither neglected the opportunity of a chance to shoot, as goal tallies of twelve and fifteen indicate.

To Harrison went the honour of scoring the final goal of the season on the 5th May, 1928 in the second half of the last game at Grimsby which North End won 6-4. This was a notable achievement because it was the team's hundredth goal of the season, a record that still stands. Not only the wingers achieved double figures. Wee Alex James, now allowed to play his own game, scored eighteen. Russell hit ten and two centre forwards Roberts and Robson scored fourteen and eighteen respectively. The last named, a young North Easterner, proved a capable deputy/successor to the valiant old servant Tommy Roberts. It was a golden season in which the artistry and ebullience of the chunky James was etched indelibly in the Deepdale annals. Yet disappointingly all these attributes and achievements had failed to win promotion and North End finished fourth behind Manchester City, Leeds and Chelsea.

Throughout the major part of the 1927/28 season, the Club had never appeared to be anything other than champions elect, even if the old bogey Barnsley remained unladen. In the second League game, against all expectations, the Yorkshiremen won 2-1 at Deepdale and on the 7th January, 1928 they achieved a double when at Oakwell they beat a Preston team who were lying in joint first position and had just reeled off ten games without defeat. The loss was particularly bitter because for the next League game two weeks later promotion hopefuls Wolves were at Deepdale. Because the game at Barnsley was followed by a 2-0 defeat at Deepdale, when North End played Everton in the F.A. Cup, the management were prompted to take drastic action. Deeming that extra scoring potential was required the young reserves Norman Robson and Gavin Nisbet, who had the previous week scored seven goals for the Central League side were drafted in.

Within half an hour the combination appeared to have justified the decision. Robson scored a hat trick and shortly before half time James increased the score to four goals to one. The goal was a typical example of James at his Preston best, playing in a style he was never to repeat when transferred to Arsenal. Permitted by Preston to play the role he best enjoyed, he divided his time between creating from midfield and wandering to the edge of the penalty area, awaiting the pulled back cross or mis-timed clearance. Seldom penetrating the confines of the box he would hit the ball with savage power, but in doing so he could also impart an amazing degree of swerve. The Wolverhampton

goalkeeper Bryce, was not the first goalkeeper to be completely bemused by a late deviation that left him helpless.

The second half of the game played in incessant rain was a remarkable transformation. The ball began to skid along the surface and Wolves changed their tactics to suit the conditions. The ball was now kicked hard down the centre of the field between the full backs Wade and Hamilton. Normally self-reliant, both men found that they lacked the speed and balance to cope with these tactics and they panicked, reducing North End's defence to a shambles. Three times the Wolves forwards scored, but even that remarkable effort was not quite sufficient to take a point. The genius of James saved the situation when from twenty-five yards he neatly bent the ball around Bryce, who could have wished for a less testing opponent to meet on his debut.

The total in the goals for column was increased the following week when all the forwards indulged themselves in a seven-goal defeat of South Shields. Within a week the benefit was destroyed for on the 6th February, 1928 there was a double disaster at Port Vale, where the side sustained a surprise 2-0 defeat and Billy Wade fractured his right leg. It was an unhappy portent for the forthcoming games with promotion rivals Leeds and Manchester City.

To replace Wade, Herbert Hamilton, a free transfer signing from Everton was paired with his namesake Tommy. Sidney Chandler was drafted in to replace the absent Crawford and Russell was re-instated at inside right. The policy was to rely on experience and three points from the two games was testimony that the team selections had been right.

In the first game at Leeds, Preston mustered only three attacks in the first half and each one brought a goal. Playing against a strong breeze they were penned back continually and it was not until the twelfth minute that they broke out. The Leeds goalkeeper Johnson who may have lost concentration from being involved so seldom, could only push out a weak shot and Russell walked it through. Twenty minutes later Reid on a lone dash made it two and a minute from half-time Robson who had seen very little of the ball, rose to head home a cross from Harrison. Although Waincott reduced the lead with two headers it was Ward for Preston who had the final word. The pugnacious wing half steamed through and volleyed the ball into Johnson's midriff. Robson following up had a formality with the rebound. North End had won 4-2.

The crucial game at Maine Road was memorable for an unfortunate clash of dates that was to have serious implications

for the Club. On the same day, 25th February 1928, Scotland were playing Ireland, and Alex James had been selected to play, since he was by now an automatic choice for his country. During the fortnight preceding the game the town was alive with rumour. With the option of releasing him or insisting that he play at Manchester, the management were faced with that well known problem 'Club or Country'. The answer was made more difficult to find because North End were doing so well in the promotion race. However the directors were well aware that James cherished his place which had been so hard won. They also knew that many clubs were casting covetous glances in his direction and so did not wish to upset the player and precipitate a transfer request. On the other hand they were also convinced that James would not accept Second Division football for much longer and therefore the only hope of retaining his services lay in gaining promotion.

Ironically the Club had a blank Saturday before the game, so a friendly was arranged with Corinthians with Cameron in James' position because the Scot's father had died during the week. The change proved beyond doubt that James was irreplaceable. Cameron gave a woeful performance, and the directors' decision had to be "North End first", particularly when their opponents Manchester City announced that they would not be allowing McMullen to play in the same game. To his credit James made no comment about the refusal, though it was clear that he was very disappointed.

Two first half goals by James and Russell almost justified the decision, and it was now very clear that only promotion would appease James. If the score sheet had remained that way the Club would have been well on the way to their objective, but an unfortunate own goal by Ward sparked off a fight back and resulted in a lost point. The 2-2 draw was poor reward for the team's enterprise and for a goal by James that showed his genius. Breaking from defence he spotted Robson in the middle and flicked the ball to him. At the split second he delivered the ball he realised that the centre forward was turning from an off side position and was consequently making no attempt to play the ball. Immediately James belied his chunky build and short legs by reacting like a greyhound and caught up with the ball. Confronted by Gray he swerved, dummied and swung his boot in a blur of blue and white, the ball struck from the eighteen yard line was in the roof of the net before the goalkeeper could move.

As a sequel to the game Carr lost his place as goalkeeper. He had proved a reliable performer but had never really been forgiven for a tragic mistake earlier in the season in November 1927, that had revived memories of a similar comic error by

Prout against Sheffield United two and a half years earlier. Playing West Bromwich Albion, North End were three goals up in forty minutes and coasting home. Cookson, the West Bromwich forward was injured and a passenger on the wing and the threat to the North End lead appeared to be minimal. Then the hobbling Cookson was given space to centre the ball. His injured limb did not permit him to perform the task in text book fashion and the cross was a high one. Carr on the goal line watched the ball and convinced that it would pass over the bar, turned to walk behind the goal to retrieve the ball. Sadly for Carr his judgment was wrong and the indignant shouts of the spectators told just how much so, for the ball had curled into the net. This gift goal lifted West Brom's morale and they pressed on to draw 3-3, thus adding to Carr's discomfiture.

Preferred to Carr was nineteen year old Frank Moss a tall, well proportioned lad who had been playing for Leyland Motors the previous season. To rise from the third team to the first was a gigantic step but it was one that he took comfortably. Displaying no signs of nerves he kept the score sheet blank as North End gained a point at Clapton Orient. The following week he was to be the centre of a controversy that did much to keep North End in the Second Division. Against League leaders Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on the 10th March, 1928, Preston took the lead when James headed a goal - a rare event. A disputed penalty gave Chelsea an opportunity to equalise but Law's kick hit the post. Unfortunately for North End the referee ruled that Moss had moved before the kick was taken and Law made no mistake with the second attempt. Soon after a forward who was blatantly off side drove the winner home off Moss's hands and a bitter Preston were left to argue the consequences.

Even so promotion was still within the Club's grasp and four successive victories enhanced the view that in Season 1928/29 there would be First Division football at Deepdale. However, fate in the form of the railways took a hand. Perhaps it is stretching credibility to claim that the railway authorities habitual failure to keep trains running to schedule cost North End promotion, but there is some truth in the statement. On Easter Saturday, 7th April, a long delay on the train journey to Nottingham allowed the Preston players only five minutes in the Notts County dressing room before the game began. Many of the players had suffered acute travel sickness, particularly Morris who was very ill when he took the field. Notts County capitalised on the situation and gave North End a drubbing, winning by six goals to two. Not surprisingly Morris, normally the rock at the heart of the defence could be faulted for most of the goals.

Shaken they then lost 2-1 at Reading on Easter Monday and now that all hope of promotion had gone, gained only two points from the next four games. On the last day of the season they made a last defiant gesture. Needing six goals to reach the magical century of League goals, they stormed forward and demoralised poor Grimsby. The star of the show was the much maligned Ken Cameron, who stepped from the reserves to plunder a hat trick and pave the way for Harrison's important final goal. North End won 6-4.

The nearness of successive promotion campaigns had brought only frustration to Preston. Worse still was the certainty that the Club could now no longer hope to retain the services of the great James. To a public who knew well the hardship of the daily grind in the mills he had proved a source of continual enjoyment. They had marvelled at his skilful footwork, the elegance of the body swerve that was so anomolous in a man who compressed eleven and a half stone into a height of only five feet seven inches. They had admired passes that seemed to defy laws of ballistics and cheered with glee at his savage, swerving shots. Now not just the fans but thousands of others in and around Preston who never saw a game realised that this genius would soon be leaving Deepdale, and they knew that the town and North End would be the poorer for his departure.

James remained a Preston player for another season, a period of uncertainty and rumour in which it appeared that every game might possibly be his last for the Club. With nearly affluent club interested in obtaining his services and the Preston directors prepared to allow him to depart, his fall from grace during season 1928/29 appears inexplicable, that is unless one analyses the character of the man. Throughout his footballing life James had had a complete belief in his own judgment and refused to be influenced by anyone. In the late thirties he had no qualms about launching a scathing attack on the 'Whirl' system, devised by the great Austrian coach Dr. Hugo Meisl. As other experts enthusiastically accepted the new concept he did not hesitate to write an article in which he declared it vastly inferior to the stopper centre half approach. It was this firmly held belief that he was his own man that made him reject countless approaches, including one from Liverpool, during the season. Even when terms had been agreed between the two Boards and Manchester City induced him to make the trip and look at housing accommodation James returned to Preston and announced that he did not like the area shown to him and would not move to Maine Road. It was not just materiality that influenced James. Confident of his ability to contribute to the success of a good side,

he was determined to wait for an offer from a club where he might achieve honours. On 3rd June Arsenal who had remained on the sidelines throughout the great hunt, moved swiftly and decisively and offered the surprisingly low sum of £8,750 for his services. In view of the fact that North End had previously turned down an offer of £15,000 the discrepancy appears surprising. The reduction can be attributed to another occasion when the directors refused to release James for international duty. In October 1928 with less reason than before James was denied the chance to play for his country, the situation being worsened by the lack of diplomacy with which the request was met. On this occasion James was not to be silenced and to repay the Club's obduracy he spent a season marking time, to the benefit of Arsenal who felt justified in submitting an offer below five figures. North End had no other option but to accept.

At Highbury, James was to gain all the honours that had hitherto eluded him. Herbert Chapman played him in a more disciplined midfield master mind role, not as a goal scorer and this change reflected in the records, 22 goals in 168 games compared with 53 in 146 with Preston.

Paradoxically although James received the plaudits and medals, on his own admission, he never again enjoyed his football as he had at Deepdale. He had become part of a specialist hand picked machine, taught to win efficiently and well. No longer could he indulge in the game for arts sake. He became one of the greatest mid-field schemers the game has ever known. The game looked to him as the perfectionist extraordinary but it was the poorer for the loss of his captivating charisma.

By the time James actually left North End on the 3rd June 1929 none of his team mates were there to wave him farewell. The final parting had been made the previous month when eighteen of the North End team (Kerr, Ewart, Ward, Sherry, Crawford, Craven, Nelson, Grierson, Nisbet, Reid, Smith, Robson, Bargh, Hair, Harris, John Parry, George Parry and Russell) sailed aboard the S.S. Olympic for a tour of the U.S.A. and Canada. It was a nostalgic occasion as James waved them farewell from the quayside for all knew that he would never again pull on the white shirt. So to the strains of Tipperary played on Jock Ewart's violin, James drifted out of the Deepdale scene ironically at the very time that the Club had taken a gamble by undertaking such an extensive tour. Despite what they had been led to believe the quality of American football was not on a par with Third Division standards and an opening draw of one goal each with the New York Giants was warning of the difficulties in store.

Eventually they returned with a record of won seven, drawn two, lost two, but convinced that Association Football in North America would go from strength to strength.

In the seasons that followed the collective rapport created at such enormous cost began to dissolve. In addition to the prolonged departure of James and the consequent uncertainty created, Russell playing in a friendly, received a serious heel injury and was out of the game from 10th September to the 20th April 1929. It was to be a couple of seasons before he was given a free transfer and he played only 21 games in this time.

With Morris leaving in 1930 the three great Scottish signings which had been the launching pad for the Club's recovery had disappeared almost simultaneously. Morris's position at centre half was adequately filled by the giant Jack Nelson from Chorley, whose physical prowess overawed more than one opposing centre forward and made him an outstanding stopper, but that was the only void plugged. An error of judgment did not help team morale. Young Frank Moss who had suffered more than most from defensive uncertainty, was dropped in favour of Jock Ewart who had gained nineteen years big time experience with Airdrie and Bradford City. Like a wanderlust over the years, he had moved back and forth between the two Clubs, in the process gaining a wealth of experience and a Scottish cap, and a confidence which the directors preferred to the uncertainty of Moss's promise. Little did anyone realise that the young Leylander who slipped off to join Oldham would later be reunited with James in the great Arsenal side and would progress to keep goal for England. Part of the preference for Ewart lay in the charisma of the big Scot. He was the life and soul of the dressing room genial, smiling, good natured, always ready to reach for the violin that accompanied him on his travels. It had not been anticipated that his stay would be a long one, but even the little time he had left in his fading career was denied to North End in dramatic fashion. In 1930 as the results of enquiries into an incident in the game between Bradford City and Bury when he dashed into the dressing room and struck a player, he was suspended sine die and warned off all the football grounds.

At the time, Ewart was no longer first choice and Desmond Fawcett once of York, Darlington and Nelson, had taken over the green jersey. Ewart's departure was a serious blow to morale, particularly as the team were at the time in grave danger of relegation. Only three wins in the four days of Easter 1930 against opposition from Nottingham earned the Club a reprieve. The hero of the hour was Albert Smith who was drafted in to fill the problem position of centre forward and scored in each game, but

he was retained at Deepdale for only one more season.

A slight improvement the following season brought little relief to the gloom since clearly the fans had no faith in the team. A new and much criticised goalkeeper J. W. Hampton from Derby performed far better than the moaners ever conceded, but by now they were prepared to carp at any weakness. The Club Captain Alfred Horne, once of Manchester City, a delicate, intuitive player far more attuned to the thoughtful rather than the physical was another butt for the crowd's displeasure. They preferred the attitude of Thomas Scott, a goalscoring inside forward from Bristol City who attacked each game with far more commitment. Only the dominance of Nelson and the indestructable consistency of Crawford warmed the fan's hearts. The left half was one of that rare breed who achieve great deeds although not inordinately talented, because they apply themselves to the game with effort, consistency and fighting spirit. He had first come into the team almost by default and had held his place quietly but commandingly. Sometimes faulted for attacking too much and neglecting his defensive duties it is significant that on the few occasions when he was absent, the defence missed his services as much as the attack. On one occasion he was moved to centre forward and typical of the player he obliged with four goals but the midfield play suffered so much that he had to be returned to his original position. At dead ball situations he was one of the finest strikers of a ball in the game, an embarrassment of luxuries for the team because Harrison on the flank had an even more venomous left foot.

Crawford's record is testimony enough of his value to North End. He was at Deepdale for eleven years, made 392 League appearances and missed only one game in seven seasons playing 187 in succession before joining Blackpool in September 1932.

The experiment with Crawford was one of a series of improvisations to fill the position vacated by Tommy Roberts. Norman Robson who had promised so much had been allowed to move to Derby and a whole succession of characters played centre forward. Two of the most interesting were George H. Smithies an amateur international from Ribchester, who had the unusual experience of playing for North End one week and then leading his home village side in the final of the Blackburn, Thomas Medal Competition on the next Saturday, and Bill Tremelling a small (5' 8") centre half in the McCall tradition, signed from Blackpool for a four figure fee as a centre forward. Tremelling had previously been with Retford Town where he had played well as a roving pivot.

Continuing mediocrity in 1931/32 brought yet again, the

relegation threat that had been flirted with for a decade. For the first half of the season, North End remained in the nether regions of the division unable to find any semblance of rapport between the varying factions in the team. On 5th December the splendid servant Jasper Kerr fractured his left leg and never wore the white shirt again. If the defence had not performed so well, there would have been no possibility of avoiding relegation. The attack, shot shy and lacking drive, was so ineffective that the drop into Division Three seemed a certainty. Week by week the crisis increased. During these troubled times Frank Ward found his sporting activities curtailed. This fine, vigorous athletic player had been pursuing another sporting activity by boxing professionally. When he was injured in the ring and was not available for football the directors stepped in and banned him from participating in any fights during the football season.

Had two new players not been brought to Deepdale then relegation to the Third Division would have been a certainty. In December 1931 shortly after losing the services of Kerr, the directors acting under the guidance of J. I. Taylor bought Rowley and Harper from Tottenham. Both had local connections. The Irish international Rowley was the son of Major Dick Rowley who ran the Preston Greyhound Stadium and had been educated at Preston Grammar School. Coming into prominence with Southampton he had been transferred to Tottenham for £3,000 in 1929. Although a tall strongly built man, he was mainly a provider of chances and had proved his worth in helping several centre forwards to prominence. One of these was Ted Harper, a goal scorer of ruthless determination. Harper rose to fame playing with Blackburn Rovers, when he also played for England. His first club was Sheppey United and whilst with the non-league team he had attracted attention because of his scoring ability, but the scouts had gone away unimpressed, Harper never pretended to be a classic footballer. Goal scoring was his sole consideration and he seldom strayed from the opposing penalty area. Only Blackburn, desperate for a goal scorer, were prepared to take a chance on him and in his second season 1924/25 was the League's top scorer. It was the change in the offside rule in the 1925/26 season that opened the way for goalscorers in the Harper mould. Feeding on the skills of Sid Puddefoot, Harper became a prolific scorer finishing with forty three goals from thirty seven games. Soon after, with the fee increased following his game for England, he was transferred to Sheffield Wednesday for £5,000. Inexplicably in Yorkshire he failed and he was forced to seek rehabilitation at Tottenham. So successful was this move that in 1930/31 he broke the Spurs scoring record with thirty six goals.

His role at Preston was simple and obvious, putting the ball in the net. It was a task that Harper knew well and he continued in his well known style, not involved one minute but striking like a cobra the next. He had a lethal shot with either foot and his heading was first class. The power of his shooting was well above average, as the Wolverhampton keeper found when facing a Harper penalty kick. Fortunately the goalkeeper managed to evade the ball which tore a gaping hole in the net and flew into the crowd at such a speed that most of the spectators thought that Harper had shot wide.

Throughout the remainder of the season the team adopted only one tactic, the through pass for Harper played by Rowley or 22 year old George Bargh from Garstang. Coolly and professionally the veteran centre forward raced onto the passes and slotted them home. By the end of the season he had obtained twenty four goals in twenty two games which contributed to a second half revival that took North End to thirteenth in the League, a position that not even the most ardent fan would have forecast five months earlier.

The following season 1932/33 was as predictable, Harper shattered the Club's scoring record with thirty seven goals in forty one games. A record which has still to be broken. Again the performance was completed against the background of a disastrous start that produced only fifteen points from the first twenty one games. Although both the fast, direct wingers Reid and Harrison had faded from the scene, the attack was capable of overcoming even this start. They were brimming over with goal potential and had gained a great forward to conduct proceedings. Taking Reid's place on the right wing was Bob Kelly, who had been in the game for nearly two decades. Over forty he was still the fastest man in the side over twenty yards, and had the artistic grace of a man who has played inside forward for England with distinction. Born in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Kelly had first been spotted playing for St. Helens by Burnley and he was taken to Turf Moor for the sum of £275. Twelve years later his market value had increased to £6,000 when he was sold to Sunderland, a fair valuation for a man whose style and body swerve were assessed by many as the finest in the game.

It was an indication of his skill as a footballer that veteran Kelly should prove so versatile and successful. On the other wing the young strong 'Sailor' Hales from Port Vale flattered to deceive and he was eventually successfully replaced by curly haired Arthur Fitton from Manchester United, a seasoned 'pro' who had spent eight years with West Bromwich Albion. Like Kelly, Fitton was a master of the basics of football, a consistent

dependable character who never let the side down. Curiously for one who seldom allowed himself the luxury of an easy game, he listed his favourite hobby as lying in bed, his pet aversion as paying Income Tax and his favourite meal as bread and cheese, washed down with cider. Both wingers introduced to the Preston team a resilliance and assurance that were major factors in improving the Club's fortunes. With Ted Harper ever ready to turn any approach into a goal, the decline had been halted and North End again believed that standards had improved and that some of the depression of the recent past had been greatly reduced.

Chapter Five

The Scottish Connection

Throughout their great years Preston had always shown a clear preference for players from Scotland. Recruitment had been concentrated so exclusively on sources north of the Border that the drop in the number of Scots at Deepdale seemed contributory, not coincidental, to the Club's slow but inexorable decline. By way of proof of this view the start of the 1932/33 season, not quite, but nearly, the lowest point in the Club's existence, found only three Scots on the list of players. They were the eternal Crawford, shortly to leave for Blackpool, third team goalkeeper Robert Muir and right half Gavin Nisbet. It was a situation the directors were to recognise and remedy with such effect that Deepdale became the first port of call for Scottish selectors for more than a decade. Later, to add emphasis to this policy, they even appointed a young Scottish manager, thirty eight year old Tom Muirhead who had been capped eight times for his country when playing at wing half for Rangers. His managerial experience had been gained in America and with St. Johnstone, a team he took into the First Division and to the semi-final of the Scottish Cup. His insight into the traditional short passing Scottish style of play, had made him a target for several English Clubs keen to introduce this simple and economic method. Sheffield Wednesday were deeply disappointed in 1933 when St. Johnstone held him to his contract and so there was a great deal of excitement in Preston when it was announced in April 1936 that he had agreed to become the Club's next manager. By this time Preston were almost as Scottish as the haggis, but theory and practice can take very different forms. Despite the presence of such typically Scottish players as the O'Donnell brothers, smooth, classical Andy Beattie, a young brusque dynamic wing half named Shankly, the effervescent Jimmy Dougal and the solid, unpretentious Tom Smith, Muirhead found it impossible to settle. He had spent nearly two decades in the Scottish League since he had begun as a seventeen year old with Cowdenbeath, and he found that the faster more demanding English game lacked the artistry and flair to which he was accustomed. His resignation

shortly after the 1937 Cup Final was therefore unexpected only in so far as Preston were at the pinnacle of their powers. A perfectionist, Muirhead realised that he would never relish management in the bruising conflict of the English First Division and he was also honest enough to realise that the Preston team were mature, self sufficient and in little need of direction.

The irony of the new Caledonian Preston was that the transfer transaction on which the revival was based, arguably the best in their history, had no Scottish flavour. Everton showing seasonal goodwill shortly before the Christmas of 1932 asked the paltry sum of £800 for two of their reserves, Harry Holdcroft and Harry Lowe. Holdcroft was a goalkeeper, lithe and agile, often the showman but unlike many others who had a similar style, he was supremely safe. He had first played League football as a seventeen year old amateur at Port Vale and was then transferred to Darlington. His stay in the North East lasted three seasons before Everton stepped in and brought him to Goodison for reserve cover. The twenty two year old Lowe, a native of Skelmersdale, was a left back of solid, dependable character, adept at marking out his opposite winger, seldom conspicuous but usually effective. It was no coincidence that that the new men were defenders. Priority was being given to a re-organisation of the defence, starting with the conversion of Tremelling to the centre half position he had first filled. By virtue of his style and height, Tremelling was compared to McCall, but there the similarities ended. At thirteen stone, Tremelling was obviously too well constructed to be deemed small and he did lack McCall's skill and above all, his subtlety. On the credit side Tremelling was a dour competitor and a thinker. He was never short of theories and tactics; indeed he was later to become a respected coach with Blackpool. Another change was made at left half where Jimmy Milne, a strapping youngster from Dundee United came into the side. He was signed in October 1932 and was a fine half back in the making, soon to make Crawford's old position his own, because of his skill, keenness and tenacity.

The formative season of 1932/33 saw the Club progress into the ranks of the good teams in Division Two and indeed their form throughout the last weeks of the season was such that they were freely tipped for promotion.

Optimism was so high that the directors were able to positively assure shareholders at the Club's Annual General Meeting in June 1933 that efforts would be made to reinforce the few remaining weaknesses in the team. As good as their word they quickly purchased three new forwards, the origins of two promoting a contemporary reporter to look for favourable

omens when he wrote: "To give power to the attack three experienced players have been secured at substantial cost, and as two are from Scotland the impression is given that as in the days of the Invincibles, North End have a regard for Scots who are clever footballers".

Not that the ancestry of the players concerned was the main ground for hope. The team's main failing had been in lacking scoring support for Ted Harper, and the Scots signed F. Wilson from Hamilton and John Torbett from Partick had both gained reputations as goalscoring wingers, thus promoting the hope that North End were about to return to their old style of play with wingers keen to cut in and have a shot at goal. In reality neither Wilson or Torbett fitted the bill and each was soon discarded, though the other player George Stephenson, once of Aston Villa, Derby County, Sheffield Wednesday and England was a distinct success and ended the season as top goalscorer with sixteen goals. As befits a brother of the man described as the greatest club player ever, Clem Stephenson of Huddersfield, George had neat, quck control, could prompt an attack but was also capable of supplying the final touch to the build up. Although he did not possess the robust physique of a centre forward of the time his reputation as a goalscorer was sufficient for him to be tried in that position and despite his physical limitations he performed the task well.

The newcomers did not have an immediate impact but North End began in great style, winning the first four games. Thereafter they proceeded to display a degree of inconsistency that defied rational explanation. It first became evident in the seventh game of the season at Upton Park, on the 23rd September, 1933. After the bright start there came a 3-0 defeat at Grimsby on the 9th September, but since it was against a skilful side who finished the season as runaway champions, there appeared no cause for alarm and a convincing 4-0 win over Nottingham Forest in the next game appeared to confirm this opinion. Thereafter the 6-0 thrashing at the hands of West Ham was an incomprehensible result, particularly as the Hammers eased up when they scored the final goal in the first minute of the second half. Vic Watson, who scored a hat trick was in great form and the pitch was very wet and the surface greasy, yet these factors could not explain away such an emphatic beating.

Seeking redress, North End decided to make drastic changes in the attack. Out went both the new wingers and Harper, shortly destined to return to his first love Blackburn, and with them went inside forward Galloway. In the vacant places came young Sydney Rawlings, a near enough likeness of his father Archie to evoke fond memories for many of the fans. Arthur Fitton

regained his lost place on the left flank and a series of experiments were made at centre forward. Rowley and Stephenson were both played there and Joe Brain, a promising Welsh lad was also given a trial. Neither of the experienced players was happy playing farther upfield and Brain broke his leg when tackled by big Louis Cardwell of Blackpool and was never the same player again.

Happily the Club kept in touch with promotion, one reason being the lack of outstanding teams in the Division. Grimsby were undeniably the best side and among the rest Preston jostled with Bolton, Brentford, Bradford and Bradford City, all of them trading points in a manner that indicated there would be a close finish to the season. Shortly before Christmas the appeal of remaining in the hunt prompted the directors to seek means of strengthening the side and Johnny Bell an inside left, was brought from Queen of the South. He proved a wise investment. Quick witted, adept at feeding his own wing and with the perception and ability to bring the other flank into play with the raking diagonal pass, he gave the team added quality. Unfortunately just when everyone was rightly preening themselves on his acquisition, he fractured a collar bone.

Urgent remedial action was again needed and although the financial position was far from rosy, North End did not fail to keep faith with their pledges. The signing of the right winger Jimmy Dougal from Falkirk was soon followed by that of an inside partner F. E. Beresford a 22 year old from Doncaster Rovers. Both signings came within a month of the most crucial acquisition. Deciding on a policy of horses for courses, they selected 25 year old Jack Palethorpe as the man they needed to remedy the lack of punch and aggression at centre forward. Palethorpe, a well built six footer had in the preceding season been instrumental in assisting Stoke City to gain promotion. Supreme in the air, and the possessor of a powerful shot, he could also make ample use of his magnificent physique, qualities which the team sorely needed. Finally the last piece of the jig-saw, left winger John Pears from Oldham arrived in March.

Despite the inevitable changes necessary to accommodate the new men, North End kept in contention. Most of the credit for this lay with the defenders, who shortly before Christmas 1933 saw the arrival in their ranks of another young Scottish half back Bill Shankly. In the close season of 1933, overshadowed by the big money transfers, the Club had purchased three young players to be groomed for the future, never envisaging that any of them would be ready for the first team during the season to follow. Indeed two of them, goalkeeper Sidney Tremaine from Hartlepool and full back G. Simpson from Newcastle, never played for the first team. Shankly however, was a player who was

always going to reach the top. He was signed on the strength of a good season with Carlisle United, a club he had joined straight from junior football in his home village of Glenbuck. As a legend in his lifetime much has been written of Shankly, yet he remains a complete Svengali like figure impossible to sum up in a few lines. His enormous love of the game and his brash, competitive nature were forged in the small mining community of his birth. Shankly's family were footballers of distinction so that whilst his talent could have been hereditary, it was supplemented by a single mindedness of purpose that transformed his existing assets to exceptional heights. As a boy he was dedicated to being a footballer and spent hours developing every facet of the game. Few other youngsters can claim to have developed arm strength for taking throw-ins by hurling the ball over the terraced house where he lived and then walking round to retrieve it and repeat the process time after time. Another of his strengths was that he had great confidence in his own ability. At nineteen, after only one year with Carlisle, many a youngster would have been flattered to be given the chance of joining a club in a higher division. Shankly was an exception. Sure in his own mind that he was going to be a top class player, he was prepared to examine the contract to see how it would benefit him. When he found the £500 fee would increase his bank balance by only forty or fifty pounds and that the Preston wage of five pounds was only an increase of ten shillings a week, he was on the point of refusing the move. It was his brother Bob who persuaded him to accept, pointing out that a move to Preston would be an advancement. Shankly had no doubt that if North End had not signed him then, Newcastle would have stepped in.

The thoroughness of Shankly's preparation for football meant above all that he was one hundred per cent fit throughout a long arduous English season. Wing halves were the work horses of the team, and it was certainly no place for the faint hearted. Never for a second despondent, Shankly was a rugged competitor, forever pitting his personal fitness and stamina against any opposition. In perception and subtlety he was no artist. He seldom used his left foot to move the ball and he lacked the vision of some of the wing halves of his day, but he compensated by his fierce enthusiasm. Not a man to confine himself to a set position he was a frequent salvation for many beaten by an opponent. The immortal Tom Finney relates two well known stories. In one game a colleague was heard to remark "Bill's being lazy today. He's letting the other wing half take his own throws". The other concerns the day when North End were four down with four minutes to play when 'Shanks', always serious about football, shouted, "Come on, we can still do it".

Shortly before Christmas North End decided that the competitive ability of this young dynamo was needed in the first team, and he replaced Gavin Nisbett and a memorable career was well and truly launched.

The single most important result of this spell in which they maintained their position neck and neck with the other challenging clubs, was a two-nil victory at Bolton on the 24th February, 1934. Defeat for North End would almost certainly have ruined their promotion hopes, yet for twenty minutes they were almost eclipsed by a furious Bolton assault that left them bewildered. Lowe, who was being partnered at full back by Hough, cleared off the line, Eastham struck the crossbar and G. W. Taylor blasted a penalty the wrong side of the post. Then George Bargh, completely against the run of play, put North End in front. Soon afterwards Palethorpe scored to seal a crucial 2-0 victory. When reviewed at the end of the season the game could be seen as one of two vital matches.

A good F.A. Cup run ended in the sixth round in defeat by Leicester, a team ironically inspired by a Chorley lad, Roger Heywood, but North End were probably glad to have the Cup distraction removed. Johnny Bell made a welcome return in March and though his craft was extremely useful, North End's form was erratic and they lost twice in four days to Bradford City and Port Vale. To counter a tense situation a gamble was taken on the vast experience of Bob Kelly and he was played at outside right, where his lack of stamina was less of a disadvantage. With the exception of a 3-1 Good Friday defeat at Oldham, full points were taken from the next six games to redress the losses, but fate had another twist in store. On the 14th April, Bury who came to Deepdale fresh from virtually having ended Bradford's hopes, had apparently done the same to Preston, soundly defeating them by three goals to nil.

A week later the pendulum swung again. A goal from Palethorpe gave North End an important win at Hull since Bolton had dropped a point to Swansea and Brentford had lost to Millwall. The situation was that Bolton and Preston were level on points with Brentford a point behind. Throughout the next week the town was buzzing with talk of goal averages and how many goals North End needed to overhaul Bolton's fractional lead. On the following Saturday, 28th April, the conjecture was rendered futile when both Bolton and Brentford improved their average by scoring five goals. Preston at home to Fulham, won, but only by two goals. The position was that North End now had to make up a point on Bolton in the last game of the season. Both were away from home, but Preston's task was far more formidable for they had to play Southampton at the Dell and with Johnny Bell

injured it looked certain that Bolton who were meeting Lincoln, the bottom club in the League, would win promotion with Grimsby.

At half time, the tide was still going Bolton's way. Both games were nil-nil, but worse still for North End, big Jack Palethorpe, whose ten goals in seventeen games had added vital penetration to the attack, was badly injured and was moved to outside right with Dougal moving to centre forward. Southampton launched attack after attack at Harry Holdcroft, but with a magnificent display of one man defiance the goalkeeper saved everything and showed great skill and composure. Then seventeen minutes from the end, North End mounted a rare desperate attack. The ball was switched to the right where Palethorpe, gritting his teeth against the pain from his injured leg, swung it towards goal. Scrivens the goalkeeper, went down full length but could only push the ball away. It rebounded straight to Palethorpe and the big man, obviously in pain slowly and deliberately hit the ball with all the force he could muster. This time Scrivens was powerless as the ball hit the net, and Preston were a giant step nearer the miracle they needed.

For the last fifteen minutes Preston held out with resource, luck and Harry Holdcroft and with the encouragement from those on the side lines who regularly passed on the score from Lincoln. Even then North End did not know if their great win had been enough to win promotion. Back in the dressing room there was a nerve wracking and anxious fifteen minutes wait for the result from Lincoln. It was announced - Lincoln 0 Bolton 0. North End were back in the First Division.

On the following day forty thousand delighted Prestonians cheered the team from the Railway Station and along Fishergate. One of the heroes of the hour, Harry Holdcroft was carried shoulder high. The same would have happened to the man whose goal had made him a Preston folk hero, Jack Palethorpe, but the management had anticipated the celebrations and fearing further injury to his badly damaged leg, provided him with a police escort.

The team was entertained to a public reception, organised by the Town's first lady Mayor Alderman, Mrs. A. M. Pimblett. During the festivities the Club chairman Sir Meyrick Hollins and vice-chairman Mr. J. I. Taylor, took the opportunity to point out that the victory had been an emphatic answer to rumours that had been prevalent in the town throughout the season, that the players did not want promotion and that this accounted for their inconsistency.

Having experienced Second Division mediocrity for too long, the directors were determined to keep the hard won Division One

status. Accordingly the close season saw further activity in the transfer market which brought three new players to Deepdale, deals partly financed by a large fee received from Charlton for Stephenson. The best known of the newcomers was Bud Maxwell, Kilmarnock's free scoring centre forward, but it was in the signing of Ray John, Stoke's Welsh international goalkeeper, that the resolve of North End to make their presence felt could be seen. With a goalkeeper as consistent and skilled as Holdcroft there were then few clubs willing to spend such a sum for cover. Ironically the foresight was not needed. Holdcroft continued free from injury and in majestic form, and John never once played for the first team although his country continued to select him for international duty.

The arrival of new blood underlined the realities of promotion to some of the players and when the season opened on the 25th August, 1934, Palethorpe, Bell and Fitton who had worked so assiduously for promotion found themselves in the reserves. Maxwell, of course, led the line, another new man Edward Critchley from Everton was at outside right and Bargh and Pears made up the left wing. A goal against Grimsby by George Bargh was sufficient to make it a triumphant return and eleven points from the first eight games, elevated them to second place and there was great optimism for the future. A problem had arisen however in the taking of penalties. Twice in the first three games John Pears had missed from the spot and started a hoodoo that was to haunt the Club for half a decade until exorcised, publicly and dramatically at Wembley. In fact the ease and frequency with which the players of Preston missed from the twelve yard mark became almost a national joke. The following season when Joe Beresford had taken over as the man most likely to miss from the spot, a referee played advantage following a blatant trip in the penalty area and even though a goal was missed the North End fans took the decision philosophically and one was heard to remark "of course the ref was right, what good's a penalty to us".

The penalty problem was highlighted by the fact that the majority of supporters still remembered George Harrison, whose deadly shooting converted 25 out of 29 penalties in his eight seasons at Deepdale.

One match which had brought smiles to Preston supporters was a derby victory on the 10th November over Blackburn Rovers, in the first League fixture between the clubs for nine years. A goal by Bud Maxwell to equalise one scored by Rovers was real slapstick. Maxwell was impeded on a run towards goal and the Blackburn players sure that the referee would award a free kick, made no attempt to halt the centre forward's progress.

The whistle was not blown and Maxwell who had been sent somersaulting had the presence of mind to thrust out a leg and turn the ball past Binns, who stood still, for like his team mates he had not 'played to the whistle'.

In spite of the penalty problem the position at the Club was very satisfactory. Bob Kelly even survived the reshuffling to make a few nostalgic appearances demonstrating once again, that class and skill are the best answers to the problem of advancing years. To maintain a position in the upper part of the table was too great a task for a team still being restructured, but a final position in May 1935 exactly half way up, averaging a point a game was highly creditable. Particularly so, as the forward line was constantly changed to accommodate a series of wheeler-dealer transactions in the transfer market. Within the space of five weeks, Pears, Critchley and Palethorpe were transferred, not one of the trio having been at Deepdale for a year. The best of the incoming players was right winger John Friar, a twenty three year old Scot who had played for Hibernian, Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Port Vale. His ability to score goals regularly augmented the tally from Maxwell's left foot and by the end of the season the pair were the only automatic choices in the forward line. An unfortunate injury to Hetherington, who broke a shin bone at Blackburn, left George Bargh and Jimmy Dougal in the inside forward positions though neither looked able to make the move permanent. Surprisingly two changes had taken place in the well tested defence. Bill Hough started the season in the kind of form that brought the Welsh selectors to watch him, but ended as reserve once again to Frank Gallimore and the quiet, dependable Bob Batey from Carlisle took over from Milne at left half.

With the Club no nearer achieving a settled balance in the attack, the signing of the O'Donnell brothers, Frank and Hugh from Celtic in the close season of 1935, was a capture greeted with delight by the fans. Frank was perhaps the better known of the two, a six foot forceful, bustling player with a record of fifty goals in seventy five games for the Scottish club, but he would have been the first to admit that he owed many of these goals to the chances created by his wing partner Hugh. Smaller than Frank, and infinitely more subtle in his approach, Hugh was a sound rather than brilliant ball player, but he had a useful turn of speed and a rare ability to cross the ball at the right time. With a side increasing in Scottish flavour, and hence favouring the short passing intricate game, the directors were encouraged to issue a pre-season statement that, "All the thirty players on the Club's list have the foremost inclination not to heed ultra-physical

methods but to concentrate on the ball all the time”.

Unfortunately the players might have been concentrating on the ball, but this did not ensure goals. Four of the first five games were lost and only two goals scored. It was a crisis situation that not even the return of the dependable Jimmy Milne could change. In despair the management turned yet again to the transfer market and brought to Deepdale the player who was to change their fortunes. Joe Beresford, a chunky, resilient little inside forward who had been around the football scene for a long time. Once he had been a dashing goalscorer who scored sixty seven goals in two and a half seasons for Mexborough and twenty seven in his first season in the Football League with Mansfield. Then he signed for Aston Villa, where eight seasons of devoted service slowly and surely matured him into a creative, inventive player. His debut against Everton on the 18th September, was traumatic. Within two minutes of the kick off he was helped from the field, with blood pouring from a badly gashed right eyebrow. Off for quarter of an hour he returned with almost the entire side of his face swathed in bandages and sticking plaster, grimly determined to make his presence felt. Although sent to play on the wing, he created the second goal in a two all draw. It was the turning point of the season. Although they did not take a point away from home until the end of November, or win away until the end of December, North End's assured home form hauled them slowly away from danger. By defeating the League leaders Sunderland at Deepdale on the last day of February 1936, they rose from third from bottom to eighth from top and went on to finish in seventh place. The game with Sunderland was rearranged by the Football League only 24 hours before it took place. The fixtures were quickly changed to accommodate teams left without a game because of Cup ties. It produced the unusual occurrence of the Preston team being named on the Wednesday before it was known whether a game would be played, let alone the identity of their opponents. How would modern managers react to this situation?

The Preston team of that period required little selection. North End played 19 games with only one change, a happy position prompted by the gelling of a forward line of complementary talents. Goals were plentiful, from the thrust of Frank O'Donnell, the wandering and opportunism of Maxwell, or from Frank's brother Hugh, who had a happy knack of scoring goals of varying degrees of brilliance. A large number of Hugh O'Donnell's goals were scrambled affairs as he stole in on the blind side of play, but he was also capable of scoring memorable ones such as one at Portsmouth on the 8th February, 1936, where

he finished a run from mid way inside his own half with a thundering shot which earned North End a 1-1 draw.

During this period the management of the Club was conducted with acumen and foresight. Even during a time when funds had inevitably to be channelled into the transfer market, they did not neglect the ground facilities. As soon as promotion had been gained, a subsidiary Company, Preston North End Pavilion Ltd., was formed. The share capital of this Company was divided into £100 of Ordinary Shares held by the Club and £9,900 of 6% Redeemable Preference Shares available for subscription by the public. The object of the Company was to build a pavilion to house 4,000 spectators covering the east side of the ground. With an estimated income from this structure of something like £2,000 per annum, it was envisaged that it would take little more than six years for the venture to accumulate sufficient funds to redeem the shares. The pavilion was open for the first time for the inaugural game of the 1935/36 season.

Pretensions to acceptability amongst the elite of the game were undermined by a poor start to the 1936/37 season that brought only two points from the first five games, with only three goals scored. An injured Frank Gallimore was sadly missed and the loss of form by such prodigious workers as Tremelling and Shankly left the defence with a tendency to waver and lose its composure. It was a strange twist when the replacement of the bustling Shankly by the little known Scottish youngster with classical style, Andy Beattie, should coincide with a run of five consecutive victories that dispelled all talk of relegation. Another newcomer who played his part nobly in these proceedings was right back Jack Jennings, a thirty year old veteran signed as a short term investment. Jennings who was born in Platt Bridge, welcomed the move after long service at Cardiff and Middlesbrough and performed extremely well in providing a mature influence until Gallimore was fit early in 1937.

Drifting along on a mid table course North End found themselves in a position where they could concentrate almost exclusively on gaining glory, because they had run into the kind of form that only good teams are able to find. They still had attacking problems centred primarily around Bud Maxwell, fine servant and opportunist though he was, his style was not that of the orthodox rampaging centre forward of his hey day and though his roamings often allowed big Frank O'Donnell to move into the gaps and obtain valuable goals, there were also days when his colleagues became increasingly disconcerted by his neglect of his duties in the middle of the attack. To exacerbate the situation Jimmy Dougal was a footballing loner, ignoring all set

conventions and wandering with a ubiquitous effervescence that opponents found difficult to spot. However, two such characters in one forward line put too much accent on individuality with brilliance. Between them Maxwell and Dougal could be relied upon to frustrate and the frustration was sometimes seen amongst their own colleagues, and so gambling either on Dougal's greater potential or unpredictability, Maxwell was dropped. Into the side came auburn haired Willie Fagan signed from Celtic for £7,000 although only eighteen years of age. A clever, artistic inside forward, he advanced the Scottish monopoly of Deepdale a stage further. On the day he made his debut there were eight Scots in the team. Later that season they played with no less than nine men who had been born over the Border.

The all important Cup run began with a home win over Newcastle with goals from Beresford and Frank O'Donnell, but a fortnight later at Deepdale, Stoke City looked to have effectively ended the campaign when they were a goal up at half time, but more important had out played North End. A youthful Stanley Matthews had spread panic in the defence so that Harry Lowe, that most dependable of full backs, was beaten time after time. The transformation that came over the game when Turner unluckily sliced through his own goal to make the score 1-1 can never be adequately explained. Hugh O'Donnell began to sparkle on the left wing and big brother Frank made sure that the artistry was not wasted as he thundered home a hat trick. Dougal scored a fifth to complete a final score line that bore no reflection whatever to the pattern of play.

The draw for the fifth round gave North End yet another home game, this time against lowly Exeter, who however, proved to be a far tougher proposition than the form books predicted. Exeter's goalkeeper Chesters defied heavy Preston pressure, after Owen had stunned the Deepdale crowd by opening the scoring in the opening minutes. When eventually the weight and power of the attacks finally overcame the Devonians resistance sufficiently to allow Frank O'Donnell to score two goals, it appeared that the game was decided. Exeter had other ideas. Mick Burns deputising in goal for Holdcroft, had looked distinctly shaky and he allowed two shots to beat him, which he should have saved. It looked as though there was to be a major upset, but then Hugh O'Donnell sneaked in from the wing to plunder an invaluable headed goal to equalise and Exeter were staggered. Frank O'Donnell and Dougal each scored to bring victory to Preston, but it was a close run thing - far closer than the 5-3 score line indicated.

All energies were now devoted exclusively to the Cup and Bill Tremelling was sent to check on North End's next Cup opponents Tottenham. Tremelling's tactical astuteness was well recognised and the Club were in the fortunate position of having a good reserve centre half, twenty seven year old Tom Smith from Kilmarnock. Playing their first away Cup tie in that year's competition was not as onerous as had been expected, because the Tottenham player Morrison was injured after half an hour and continued for the remainder of the game as a useless passenger. Two goals from headers by the O'Donnell's with a Dougal goal were far more than ten men could fight, Duncan's rejoinder being merely a consolation.

The ground chosen for the semi-final against West Bromwich was Highbury, a venue not to the liking of either club, particularly Preston who organised and presented a massive petition in an attempt to have the game played at a ground between Birmingham and Preston.

The rejection by the Football Association of the plea was however not North End's first concern. A week before the game, Holdcroft, whose ability had been confirmed by his selection for England, cracked a bone in the little finger of his right hand. Throughout the week the Club conducted a charade designed to stop the nature of the injury becoming public. Time and again they stated that the goalkeeper's fitness was in no doubt. On the Thursday they even had him in action before the pressmen with the hand bandaged, but it was stated that he was fit. It was not until the morning of the game on the 10th April, that the public learned that he had no chance of playing, leaving Mick Burns to deputise.

Any doubts about Burns' adequacy to cope with the pressures of a semi-final were negated by the majestic form of the Preston team. He was scarcely troubled throughout the game in direct contrast to another reserve Ridyard, who was deputising for Sandford as Albion's centre half. He had the disconcerting experience of seeing his immediate opponent Frank O'Donnell give North End the lead after only three minutes, swinging first time at a centre from Dougal and leaving the goalkeeper helpless. To try and compensate for this, Ridyard decided to mark O'Donnell more closely, a factor Frank exploited brilliantly by roaming all over the field. It created huge gaps in the Albion defence, a perfect situation for the dashing Dougal, and twice he was able to score goals with cover stranded elsewhere. Frank O'Donnell himself got another to make the total four and well beyond Albion who could only score from a free kick fortuitously deflected into the net by Milne. Despite the comfort of the

margin, North End had still to show their metal, none more so than Beresford who after half an hour's play was led off to have five stitches in his face, but returned to run himself into such a state of exhaustion that at the end he was helped from the field by Tremelling.

Another appearance in the Cup Final was ample excuse to celebrate and the town was soon buzzing with anticipation. The resource, even courage needed to get to Wembley in those days was no less a requisite of the spectators than of the players. Most people left by road or rail but during the week a few left on bicycles and two venturesome individuals flew down. The players who knew that Holdcroft would not play, made their headquarters at the Chateau de Madrid at Northwood. It was a particularly apt location since living just around the corner was one of the greatest North Ender's of all time, John Goodall who was made the Club's guest together with another survivor from the 1889 Cup side Jack Gordon.

Sunderland were the opposition for the Final, a club with an illustrious record but which had never won the Cup. For the whole of a circumspect first half it appeared that there was no possibility of them altering this situation. Primarily, through the energies of Shankly, North End were in control. The brusque wing half had no qualms at all about pitting his legendary fitness against Wembley's stamina sapping reputation, and shuttling back and forth he dominated the centre of the pitch. Shortly before half time the dominance of North End was rewarded following the build up of an attack on the left. Dougal waywardly brilliant as ever weaved into the centre, creating havoc with the Sunderland covering. Big Frank O'Donnell spotted the winger as soon as he began to move and astutely broke right to overlap. The ball was flicked to him and the big Scot coolly drove his shot past the helpless Mapson.

The goal should have been a killer blow. Few teams having to struggle so hard to keep on terms could have come back into the game. Afterwards, many of the Preston players were to state that they thought the goal was more a stimulus than a set back. Sunderland came out after the interval a different side. Realising that Shankly had dominated the game they thrust their fine wing halves Thomson and McNab forward to try and gain control of the mid-field. Shankly was still prominent, but only in defence. Thomson and McNab won more and more possession and Raich Carter did the rest. One of football's all time greats, Carter was unobtrusive and unflurried, he could switch the point of attack with leisurely ease, probing for weaknesses, bringing out the best in those who played with him. There was also the ever present

danger that he would drift away from his marker, and charge into space, ever ready for a shot at goal or to draw the cover so that one of his colleagues was left with a chance. Within six minutes of the restart Gurney fired an equaliser and Carter was the schemer responsible. The North End defence normally so composed and reliant suddenly crumbled. Carter himself put Sunderland in front, and minutes from the end a brilliant shot from an oblique angle by Burbank confirmed the destiny of the Cup. Preston could scarcely believe it.

"We'll be back next year to take it to Lancashire", was the well worn cliché from manager Tom Muirhead, even before the team had left London. He was right, but by then he was no longer manager, his surprise resignation being presented well before the season began. There was no replacement for him. The directors formed a committee to manage the Club and strange as it may seem the arrangement worked but success was not achieved because of a stable team which needed no selection or direction. Before the season even began, two contentious decisions had to be made. Should Andy Beattie or the man he had superseded, the still dependable Harry Lowe, play at left back and should it be Tremelling or Smith at centre half. Banking on youth the directors opted for Beattie and Smith. Time was to prove the decisions right. Settling down immediately between Shankly and Milne, Smith gave the Club the advantage of a smooth hand over from one player to another in the most crucial of positions. It also gave North End a magnificent axis to build on and the defence of Holdcroft, Gallimore, Beattie, Shankly, Smith and Milne picked itself week after week. There were, however, forward problems which threatened to undermine all the Club's hopes.

By North End's standards eight points from the first nine games in 1937/38 could be classed as a good start, but the directors were not satisfied. Fagan went to Liverpool and in his place from Manchester United came George Mutch, a small swarthy ball artist. Andy Beattie's namesake Bobby arrived from Kilmarnock to take over the other inside forward position, and Maxwell out of favour for some time was brought back to centre forward. His success there enabled the Club to strengthen their staff still further by conducting an important transfer transaction with Blackpool. This deal gives a rare insight into the policies of the Preston directors. They had seen transfer prices slowly increase, and realising that their own Club lacked many of the resources of the larger ones, they were keen to try and stabilise the transfer market. To do this they proposed to prevent cash changing hands wherever possible conducting all deals as exchanges. When Blackpool, desperate for a big centre forward

enquired for Frank O'Donnell, who had just gained international recognition. Preston refused to discuss a fee, one that would certainly have reached five figures and asked for Watmough, McIntosh and a small settlement fee instead. Blackpool agreed and Watmough went straight into the first team at outside right. Later they carried out a similar deal that took Beresford and Vernon to Swansea in exchange for the promising young winger George Lowrie.

These complicated transactions slowly consolidated the moderate start. There was an improvement coinciding with the introduction of Mutch. On the last Saturday of October the resurgence was confirmed. Three-one down at Goodison Park, North End staged an astonishing recovery that shocked Everton. The new hero Mutch converted two penalties, a rare luxury for a Club where successful spot kicks were so seldom seen. By the turn of the year Preston were up with the leaders. Between 1st January and 18th April, they took twenty two points from seventeen games and reached the final of the Cup, form that even the Invincibles would have applauded.

North End's finest hour came in the fifth round of the Cup at Highbury. In the previous rounds first West Ham and then Leicester had defended stoutly until the closing minutes, when Preston's superiority finally proved too formidable. Arsenal however were not a side to acknowledge any team as their masters and before a fiercely partisan crowd of 72,121, who had paid a then staggering £7,210, they soon subjected Preston to heavy pressure. To repel the Arsenal attacks, North End required all the determination and pride of the Preston defence, inspired by Shankly who was playing magnificently. Not only did he negate the skill of James, he also had time to prompt attacks and assist other hard pressed defenders. Only one goal separated the sides and it came on the hour from Dougal, now occupying a permanent spot at centre forward. In a manner that only he, on a good day, was capable of, he took a pass from Mutch and waltzed through a bemused defence. From then on Shankly made sure that the Preston defence was organised and impregnable. Even so for one brief period the few North End fans present were very worried. Andy Beattie and James challenged for a ball in the North End penalty area, collided and ended up on the ground. Seventy thousand voices screamed for the penalty and the referee was pointing towards goal. It was only Holdcroft, nonchalantly placing the ball who appreciated that the referee was pointing for a goal kick.

The semi-final at Bramall Lane, which followed an easy 3-0 sixth round victory at Brentford, began dramatically. After only

three minutes, Still of Aston Villa hammered a free kick past Holdcroft's spectacular but belated dive and Preston were struggling, but not for long. Within six minutes Hugh O'Donnell, that most unconsidered of opportunists, grabbed an equaliser and North End were in control. Their right to another Wembley appearance was decided mid way through the first half. Caught square the entire Villa defence stood in loud verbal appeal, as Mutch raced onto a through ball. The referee allowed play to continue and it was 2-1, but the dark little Scot nearly wasted his chance. As he steadied and deliberated on what move to make and with a desperate Cummings almost on top of him, Mutch was at last galvanised into action and his hoisted lob, curled cunningly over the goalkeeper's head into the net.

Seldom can a side have possessed better credentials for a 'double' claim. On 9th April, with Andy Beattie, Shankly, Smith and Mutch away on international duty and Dougal injured, they beat a good Derby side 4-1. The demanding Easter holiday programme brought in four points from the three games. The most welcome result was the away draw with the League leaders Wolverhampton on Easter Saturday. The Wolves at that time revelled in heavy going and so the club regularly saturated the pitch before each game. The previous day Leicester could make nothing of these unusual conditions and lost by ten goals to one. North End however, were a vastly more adaptable side. Even though they had to change their mud soaked outfits at half time on a warm sunny April day, they matched Wolves in every department and kept the game goalless. Despite what modern managers' may say about the rigours of challenging for 'the double' the fixture list was little less arduous then, than now. Few clubs in their quest for the prize can have been required to play two games as demanding as those facing North End at the end of the season. On 23rd April, just one week before the date of the Final tie with Huddersfield, Deepdale staged the game that was to decide the Championship. Preston v Arsenal. What a week for the Club and their supporters. Once again North End's injury hoodoo struck. Dougal had been off injured for a month, his deputy, Maxwell, was also injured on Good Friday and he was joined by the reserve inside forward Archie Garrett. The selection possibilities were very limited and Lowrie and McIntosh were called up to deputise. Arsenal too had their problems being forced to take the field without the famed Ted Drake. Ironically the great Arsenal half back Bernard Joy considered the substitution to be to Arsenal's advantage. Despite Smith's lack of height he always handled Drake with ease. The smaller more elusive Carr presented different problems.



PRESTON NORTH END 1938 CUP FINAL SQUAD

Back Row L/R: W. Scott (Trainer), J. Dougal, W. Shankly, F. Gallimore, H. Holdcroft,

A. Beattie, R. Batey, J. L. Milne, Metcalf (Asst. Trainer)

Front Row L/R: R. Walmough, G. Much, R. Smith, J. Maxwell, R. Beattie, H. O'Donnell.



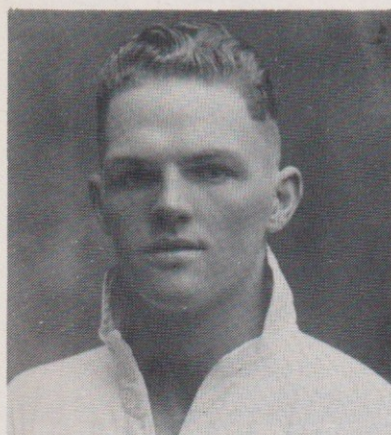
W. SHANKLY

Right half. Signed season 1933/34, one of five footballing brothers. A player of rare tenacity and spirit later to become one of the great men of football.



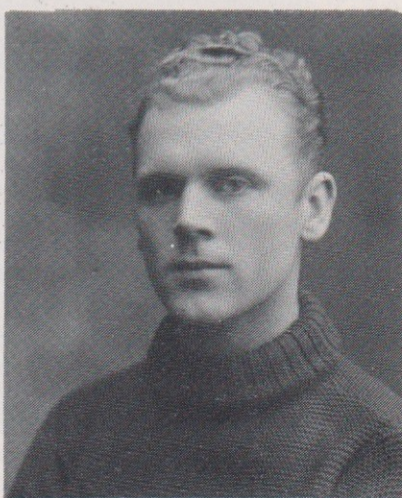
F. GALLIMORE

Fast and fearless right back obtained from Wirral Albion in 1931, a player not easily beaten.



J. L. MILNE

Signed October 1932 from Dundee. Has served North End as a player, trainer, manager, general manager and scout. As Centenary season came to a close Jimmy Milne was still actively involved at Deepdale having completed 50 years loyal service with the Club.



H. HOLDCROFT

Agile and daring goalkeeper, joined North End Christmas 1932 from Everton for £800. In a run of 174 games only sacrificed 219 goals.



G. MUTCH

Signed in season 1937/38 from Manchester United, a small swarthy inside forward always looking for goals.



T. SMITH

Impressive centre half signed from Kilmarnock. Part of the 1938 Cup final team. Settled in Preston when his playing days were over.



J. DOUGAL

Outside right signed December 1933 from Falkirk, capable of playing in any forward position, a real will o' th' wisp.



W. TREMELLING

Signed 1930 from Blackpool as a centre forward, but centre half was his original position and he soon made it his own at Deepdale. A hard working and popular figure.



PRESTON NORTH END 1934 PROMOTION TEAM

Back Row L/R: W. Shankly, F. Gallimore, H. Holdcroft, H. Lowe, W. Tremelling, J. L. Milne,
 Front Row L/R: S. Rawlings, R. Kelly, G. Stephenson, J. Bell, A. Fitton.

It was Carr who opened the scoring after fourteen minutes, but with the game still being hotly contested a second tragedy wrecked all that Preston had strived for throughout the season. Milne, caught on one leg, attempted to turn and fell on his shoulder to lie clutching a fractured collar bone. In such a fleeting moment can a Club's dreams of immortality disappear. For Milne the situation was even worse. Not only had a prospective League championship medal gone, but with it a Cup medal. To underline the fact that it was not Preston's day, second half mistakes by Lowrie and Gallimore let in Bastin and Carr for further goals. The 3-1 defeat ended any hope of the Championship and the feat of 1888/89 was not to be repeated.

So for the second year in succession North End entered a Wembley Final knowing that they would be deprived of the services of a key player. There was though considerable elation when it was learned that the brilliant Dougal had come through the reserve game at Blackburn unscathed. To sharpen him up for the final he was selected for another reserve team game and the ecstasy vanished. Within minutes he broke down completely and hobbled painfully off the pitch, and so was out of the big game. Attention passed to his replacement, still a contentious issue since possible deputies Maxwell and Garrett had to undergo fitness tests. Both passed and opting for experience the Club decided on Maxwell. Huddersfield with no such injury problems, also decided that experience was to be preferred and selected Joe Hulme who was thus appearing in a record fifth Cup Final, instead of the young South African Wiennand.

Both clubs had been asked by the F.A. if they would number their players, a policy some clubs had begun to adopt and one the F.A. were keen to encourage. In what may seem a surprising decision today, both declined, Preston stating that they had no desire to 'look like greyounds'.

If the fans were deprived of means of identifying the players it at least saved some reputations, for the game was completely colourless, and was spoiled by the attitudes of players on both sides, which subsequently brought letters of rebuke to both clubs. The insipid nature of events can be gauged by the fact that the main point of interest centred around the referee's persistent refusals to award a penalty in circumstances that were contentious. First Hulme attempting to cut in was obstructed off the ball. Next Watmough was sent sprawling, and finally, Young, the Huddersfield centre half appeared to handle. Each-time the referee was adamant. The score was 0-0 after ninety minutes and extra time brought drama. With only one minute to play Bobby Beattie started a last Preston attack from the half way line. He

passed to his wing partner O'Donnell and a sudden flick upfield inexplicably found a chink in a defence that had appeared impregnable. Mutch, a small dark, swarthy figure was on it in a flash, heading direct for goal. Young whose broad shoulders had born so much of the defensive responsibilities spotted the danger and moved in. Mutch veered away from the challenge, a long leg snaked out and suddenly there was the white shirted inside forward, prostrate a yard inside the penalty area.

This time the referee did not deny the frantic appeals, and Preston had been given the chance to exact poetic retribution for that contentious penalty in the 1922 Final. No dramatist would have dared to contrive such a denouement to his plot. Here was the team who regularly sprayed penalties in all directions (two had been missed since Mutch's successful brace) presented with one of the most crucial in the history of the game. To thicken the plot, Mutch the delegated penalty taker, had to receive treatment from the trainer before he could continue. As anxious team mates crowded round, no doubt dreading that they might be asked to take the kick in his stead, the little inside man rose slowly to his feet and nodded quietly. This was to be his responsibility.

The story is told that the advice given to Mutch as he lay injured was "just hit it hard". Mutch followed it to the letter. He hit the ball hard, but with no attempt to control direction. It scorched the underside of the cross bar directly above poor Hesford's helpless hands, and screamed into the net, a blaze of whitewash seared along its top surface. The Cup was returning to Preston.

The jubilant North End departed the country for a Continental tour and two serious blows. The first and most serious was an injury to Tom Smith, who cracked a leg bone. The second was a humiliating six-one defeat by Slavia of Prague.

The injury to Smith was the key factor that left the 1938/39 season listless and uninspiring. He was a hard man to replace and two defeats in the first four days of the season underlined the team's debt to him. Dick Watmough too, missed the entire season through injury though the Club did sign a replacement, Terry McGibbons from Ayr United. Poor McGibbons could never quite conform to a pattern that demanded that the wingers should cut in and score and by failing to do this until the fifteenth game (in mid November) he virtually dropped himself. It was no surprise that soon after this North End moved into the transfer market and bought a player who had always caused them a great deal of trouble, the fast, aggressive Graham White from Birmingham City. He was a capable goalscorer who changed clubs without losing form. In spite of having so much talent in

other positions the Club were committed to spend the season in mid table. Too many points had already been surrendered to think of challenging for the title, and the away form was not that of a championship side. The team's home record could not be faulted, and another good Cup run was a possibility. Early successes appeared to be giving North End momentum in this competition when they were unexpectedly beaten 1-0 in the sixth round by the eventual winners Portsmouth, leaving a very talented side, with nothing to play for during the rest of the season.

They did not even win the Charity Cup, losing two goals to one to Arsenal at Highbury in one of the weirdest games. Freak weather hit London on that September evening and even though the referee turned the teams straight round at half time the game finished in virtual darkness with spectators lighting fires on the terraces to try and pierce the gloom. The star of the game was Harry Holdcroft, who was congratulated by the Arsenal team after the game for his uncanny sighting of the ball.

The threat of war which had been present for so long finally became reality in September 1939, but many fans expressed the view that "it will be over by Christmas". If only this had been the case, for then surely North End would have achieved great success. The problem position of outside right would have been filled by the young emerging genius Tom Finney and the feats of the late thirties would have been surpassed. Sadly this was not to be and the long war cut off many a promising career in its prime and football was hit just as hard as other vocations. Views and dreams of what might have been, like so many other issues in football, must remain pure conjecture and a source for animated discussion by those who remember.

Interlude

Making the best of it

Despite the high promise of the previous season North End did not make an auspicious start to 1939/40. Perhaps it was the heavy war clouds that were casting a shadow over the whole nation that affected the players. Be that as it may goalless draws were chalked up at Deepdale against both Leeds and Sheffield United with a two-nil defeat at Grimsby. Thus on the weekend that war was declared North End stood fourth from the bottom of Division One with no goals, two points and above Blackburn, Middlesbrough and Leeds. The team remained unchanged for these three games:- Holdcroft, Gallimore, Williams, Shankly, Milne, Batey, Mutch, White, Hunter, Beattie, Wharton.

For several weeks football, like the rest of the nation, was in a state of turmoil and it is perhaps remarkable that it took only a month and a half for a war-time competition to begin. Only Aston Villa, Derby, Exeter, Gateshead, Ipswich and Sunderland did not re-open, as clubs were encouraged by the Government to provide as much football entertainment as they could in order to keep up the nation's morale.

To keep travelling to a minimum the eighty two clubs were divided into ten regional Leagues. North End were one of the twelve clubs that formed the one labelled 'North Western Division' and kicked off promisingly enough with Frank O'Donnell getting both goals in a two-one win at Bury on the 21st October, 1939 and promptly won four games in a row, with George Mutch getting a hat-trick in the six-one win over Oldham.

The team did not quite maintain this momentum, but in a season punctuated by the deep snows of January and February were unbeaten at home until early May when Bolton won three-one at Deepdale. This in fact lost North End top position, for although winning the remaining three games they were pipped by Bury, who won each of their last four matches. North End did, however, chalk up a remarkable ten-one win against wooden spoonists Accrington at Peel Park on the 22nd May, Jimmy Dougal leading the way with four goals.

In the twenty two League games of that season Neil totalled thirteen goals, being second in the scoring list to Frank O'Donnell whose fifteen goals included a hat-trick against Rochdale. Two games in which Frank did not score, however, were the two legs of the first round League Cup game in April. Jimmy Dougal got the goal as North End went down three-one at Everton in the first leg and got two more in the first half of the second leg at Deepdale to level the scores on aggregate. The second half was an anti-climax as Tommy Lawton and Stan Bentham netted for Everton to take them through, though they were destined to go out to Fulham in the quarter final.

The War also provided an effective end to the dreams of the Club's second great autocratic Chairman, James I Taylor. It was no coincidence that the Club's two great eras were when affairs were handled by one man (Sudell in the days of the Invincibles, Taylor in the thirties). Both were virtually in sole charge of all matters concerning the Club, including those on the field of play. Unlike Alderman Ord who was Chairman for twenty eight years until he retired in 1921, they delegated nothing and considered themselves the final arbiter on both team and financial matters. Taylor was a compelling character, lucid, explicit, singleminded, he had a barbed manner of speaking, and he could be stinging with his sarcasm. In man management he adopted techniques that no text book would recommend. Bill Shankly who studied his methods carefully has admitted in his autobiography that he learned a lot about handling men from Taylor and put it into practice by adopting a style diametrically opposed to the Chairman. Yet Taylor's charisma was so marked that the same Shankly presented him with the boxing trophy he won whilst in the services, and of which he was extremely proud. To compel such respect from a forceful character such as Shankly, Taylor must have been a remarkable psychologist. Shankly tells of the way in which Taylor would publicly castigate a player in mocking tones, citing as an example the time he appeared to sympathise with Holdcroft over a goal conceded. He then went on to twist the knife saying that the goal should never have been allowed as he saw the crowd behind the goal move and push the ground! It was an unusual manner of handling men, yet the Club's record, under his guidance, is proof that his methods worked.

In one area Taylor demonstrated a foresight that might have enhanced his achievements even more if the war had not interceded. The development of young players is a policy that was not seriously adopted until the early fifties. Between the wars the large clubs were content to allow the younger men time to prove their abilities with clubs in lower divisions. Transfers were then

arranged at reasonably stable prices and all parties received mutual benefits. Preston were one of the first clubs to realise that the increasing demands of competition would increase the demands for new players and thereby escalate transfer fees. As already explained they attempted to rationalise the situation by trying to prevent cash changing hands on transfer deals. When no other clubs adopted the same tactics they turned their attentions to producing their own young talent. The timing was opportune for in 1936 the town's youth side had just reached the final of the All England Shield and its and its members went to Ashton Park for trial games, coaching and free pints of milk. Among their number was a tiny youngster, only four feet nine inches tall at fifteen years of age, named Tom Finney who when he first sent his credentials to the Club for consideration had received no reply. Perhaps this was understandable for few clubs then had vacancies for inside forwards who whilst they might have skill, were not robust and well built.

Fortunately for Preston, Finney's father had always been a keen supporter who had encouraged his son by taking him to Deepdale to watch the great Alex James, who soon became Tom's idol. He had also struck up a friendship with Will Scott so that when the application was ignored, the trainer was able to rectify the situation and include him in a trial game. One look was enough for the Preston management, but to their surprise the youngster did not accept the position on the ground staff offered to him. His father wisely thinking of the future as much as the present, insisted that young Tom finish his apprenticeship as a plumber, though he continued to play as an amateur.

The youth policy soon bore fruit, several players made the transition to the reserves and at the end of the 1938/39 season seventeen year old Andy McLaren had been given the chance to lead the first team attack in the Blackpool Victoria Charity Cup match. When war reduced the game to less demanding war-time leagues with their hastily assembled teams and guest players, other youngsters were able to gain first team experience. Andy McLaren won a regular place, so did full back Bill Scott and a tall, well constructed goalkeeper Jack Fairbrother was signed from Burton Town and soon took over from Holdcroft. So rapid was Fairbrother's progress that he was soon ranked among the leading five goalkeepers in the country but even more spectacular was the way in which young Finney entered the football stage. Although he was maturing physically all the time, he was constantly in the shadow of the inside left who had kept him out of the town schoolboy side, Tommy Hough. Hough retained that position at Deepdale in the under eighteen side which played in

the mid-week league and he appeared likely to be a perennial bar to Finney's progress. Reporting for his usual twelfth man role in the side Finney was amazed to learn that he was playing. He was even more surprised to hear that it was at outside right where he was needed because Eddie Burke was unfit. With the advice from Will Scott in his ears, "be as direct as you can and try and get your crosses over clean and fast with your right foot and have a go at goal with your left if you get the chance", he took the field for a game which, although no one realised it, was to be one of the most significant ever for North End. As he walked into the dressing room, following a successful debut, Finney was greeted by Jim Taylor with the words - "you had better forget about being an inside forward lad, I think the wing's the place for you. You're there from now on.

It was a momentous decision. Less than two years later Finney signed as a part-time professional. When the 1940/41 season opened he was selected for the first team, for what was to be an eventful year. Despite the demands of the forces, which frequently deprived the Club of the services of Andy Beattie, Bill Shankly and Hugh O'Donnell, because they were unable to obtain leave from their units. Preston North End had no peers. They outdistanced all pursuers to become champions of the Northern Regional League and added to that honour when they won the second war-time Cup Final, following a campaign that was an epic in itself. The competition began in February, rather earlier than in the previous season and the matches in each round were two legged home and away. North End made an exciting start with a four-four draw at Bury, Tom Finney (2), Bobby Beattie and Andy McLaren getting the goals, and in an equally hard fought second leg Beattie was again on the mark, while Bill Jessup got the decisive second goal in the two-one win.

North End got into their stride in round two with a six-one aggregate win over Bolton and then in an incredibly one sided third round tie beat Tranmere thirteen-one at Deepdale - Hugh O'Donnell (5), Andy McLaren (5), Tom Finney, Jackie Wharton and Jim Dougal getting the goals - and eight-one at Tranmere Maclaren (2), Dougal (3), Shankly (2) and Finney (1).

Andy McLaren got another hat-trick in the second leg of the fourth round tie against Manchester City as North End went through five-one on aggregate and though Newcastle provided much sterner opposition in the semi-final, two Bill Shankly goals from the penalty spot took Preston through to Wembley and a clash with the mighty Arsenal.

The venue was a distinct psychological advantage to the Londoners, particularly as the tickets were only on sale at

Wembley and Highbury. The cheers and encouragement from the six hundred Preston fans in the sixty five thousand crowd were drowned as the teams (both at full strength) walked out of the tunnel. ARSENAL: Marks, Scott, Hapgood, Crayston, Joy, Collett, Kirchen, Jones, L. Compton, Bastin, D. Compton. PRESTON: Fairbrother, Gallimore, Scott, Shankly, Smith, A. Beattie, Finney, McLaren, Dougal, R. Beattie, O'Donnell.

The Preston team had not been selected without a great deal of heart searching. Andy Beattie had been stationed abroad for almost the entire season, leaving the normal occupancy of the number six shirt to a local lad Cliff Mansley, who had played with no little distinction before a leg injury enforced his absence and triggered off an incredible story of misunderstanding.

Recovering from the injury, Mansley was surprised to read in the local paper that he was no longer available, a comment he interpreted as meaning that North End no longer required his services. Staying away from the ground he faded from the picture and would have remained so if he had not by accident met Bill Shankly on Preston Railway Station. Inquiring about Mansley's health, Shankly was staggered to hear that he was fully fit, and despite Mansley's protests he dragged him to a phone box from where he contacted Will Scott. Struggling with the perplexing problem of replacing Beattie, Scott was delighted to hear the news and instigated a crash course to achieve match fitness so that Mansley could play in the semi-final against Newcastle. Again Mansley proved a capable deputy but the likelihood of Beattie obtaining leave for the Final left the Club's selectors in a dilemma.

Realising that with four players lacking big match experience, composure would be required at Wembley. Mansley was omitted. The deputy's disappointment was lessened by the fact that he was selected as reserve and trainer Will Scott boosted his morale by insisting that the R.A.F. would not get Beattie home in time for the game. Ten minutes before the kick off Scott's intuition appeared to have been correct. There was no sign of Beattie and with time running out the number six strip was thrown to Mansley with the instruction to get changed, but just as he tied his laces the door burst open and there was Beattie. The instruction was reversed and the reserve had to peel the strip off, and there was a poignant moment as Beattie shook hands and apologised to a very disappointed Mansley. Beattie had more than experience to give North End, since the previous week he had been guesting for Arsenal and so knew a little about their style of play.

Cup Finals and Preston had twice been linked dramatically

with the penalty spot. This was to be no exception. Within three minutes of kick off the referee awarded a penalty to Arsenal for hands in a goalmouth scrimmage and big Leslie Compton stepped up to take the kick. The shot was hard but not true and the ball went a yard wide of the post. Within three minutes the Gunners had cause to regret the miss. Finney swept past an amazed Hapgood, who later admitted he was confounded to find a right winger dribbling so brilliantly with his left foot, and squared the ball knee high. McLaren gliding into space hit the cross first time and flicked the ball past Marks. Although a typical break away goal from Dennis Compton equalised the score, for the remainder of the game North End had little difficulty in keeping the scoreline even, for they were comfortably in command and could feel a little aggrieved at not having won.

Before the match the officials had decided to veto the normal procedure and not play the sudden death football that followed any unproductive period of extra time. Later they even agreed to dispense with the extra time hoping that if the Final was a draw after ninety minutes, the replay would help the F.A. and club finances. The deciding match was scheduled for Ewood Park to give Preston some compensation for having had to travel to London for the first game. Naturally it was a popular venue for the North End supporters and for Jack Fairbrother who was then a policeman in the Blackburn Constabulary.

The attendance was limited to forty five thousand though in fact only thirty four thousand who paid £5.079 saw the game. Among their numbers were Polish airmen, Czech soldiers and Canadian military men who were evidently not deterred by the refusal of the F.A. to allow reduced prices for 'Ladies, Boys and H.M. Forces', and found the 1/1d or 2/4d required for admission. Although excitement and interest was high and the first spectators arrived at the ground at 7 a.m. there was no disorderly conduct. The crowd, no doubt, influenced by the presence of the military queued in orderly fashion and inside the ground were entertained by the band of the Loyal Regiment. Both sides had made changes, Bill Scott had received a leg strain and it was decided to move Andy Beattie to replace him at left back which allowed Mansley to take over at left half, a move that solved a few consciences. The change was made so late that even today many pundits fail to name the team correctly. Arsenal decided that Ted Drake with his greater mobility was likely to worry North End's defence more than the slower moving, well built Leslie Compton.

This time it was the other Beattie, Bobby, who gave Will Scott pre match problems. Beattie failed to join the team coach when it left Preston, leaving Scott to spend the short journey working out

possible permutations to cover his absence. These were solved on arriving at Ewood, where Bobby was waiting ready to doff his R.A.F. uniform and put on a white shirt.

From the onset it was obvious that the game would be fast and furious. Within minutes Fairbrother was beaten but Andy Beattie was positioned behind him to kick the ball off the line with a lack of finesse that was most uncharacteristic. The turning point came shortly before half time and again it followed an incident in the Preston penalty area. Drake at last rounded Smith and surged towards Fairbrother, who was already off his line and as the gap between the two players narrowed, the goalkeeper spread himself as much as possible. Drake catapulted over the diving goalkeeper and the collision resulted in Drake receiving a badly twisted knee. Although he continued on the wing with Kirchen at centre forward, he could scarcely move and was able to do very little to help the team.

After fifty minutes North End, who had been left in total command of the game by the unfortunate accident, went into the lead. Dougal took a pass from Finney and flicked it inside, McLaren headed it down and Bobby Bettie found the net. At that point Arsenal apparently accepted the inevitable. Drake was waived off the field in case he further aggravated an already serious injury and Arsenal's attacks grew more sporadic. It was the prelude to the most exciting minute of the game. Bernard Joy, the great amateur centre half, moved up field for a corner. When it came, he swing his foot with all the desperation that typified Arsenal's cause. The ball careered wildly, struck an unwitting Frank Gallimore and was deflected into the net. The impossible had happened, Arsenal were level. Not even the Arsenal players, who had long abandoned hope could believe it. As they congratulated themselves, Dougal kicked off. Before an Arsenal player could touch the ball the attack swept half the length of the pitch and Beattie again scored. This time there was to be no relinquishing of the advantage and a delighted Tom Smith was first up the steps to receive the trophy from the Everton chairman Mr. W. C. Cuff.

A week later the Club completed a great double in a classic game, not only full of artistry but tremendous promise for the future. A defeat in the League at the hands of Blackpool had left North End needing to win the last game of the season against Liverpool, in order to clinch the title. They did so in fine style by virtue of six goals from the boot of Andy McLaren, every goal being the result of a dazzling dribble to the bye-line by Finney, and the ball then put back into the path of the scorer. Over the next twenty years, Preston fans were to see this move on many occasions and the victories over Liverpool and Arsenal were

signs of the great times that lay ahead and that a genius had arrived on the football scene.

In many ways this was Preston's war-time answer to the 1888/89 'double' for North End won the North Regional League competition of 1940/41 with a record of P 29, W 18, D 7, L 4, Gls F 81, A 37. This competition was less clear cut than in the previous season. With only seventy clubs operating, just two Leagues were formed labelled 'North Regional' and 'South Regional' respectively. Clubs tended to play whenever they could and with the war situation at its worst and another bad winter, some clubs played as many as thirty seven games and others as few as ten. Cup games were also counted in the League programme and so goal average not points, was used in order to decide League positions. North End's average was 2.189 compared with the 1.900 of second place Chesterfield. Once again the season stretched into June and ended on a high note for Andy McLaren in particular as he got all six goals in a six-one trouncing of Liverpool.

The following season Preston's three major goal scorers, Mutch, McLaren and Dougal, were regularly available ensuring North End were again amongst the most attractive clubs in the country. The organisation into wartime Leagues took a different look with the London clubs forming their own League and the others dividing into North and South. Preston were one of the thirty eight clubs forming the Northern section which had two separate League competitions. In the first, lasting until Christmas Day, North End were well in contention until the last game which was lost at home two-one to Blackburn, enabling Blackpool and Lincoln to end up above them and two points in front. A twenty thousand gate at Deepdale on Christmas Day 1941 was equalled only by the one at Old Trafford for the Manchester derby and goalscoring feats up to that point were Mutch getting a hat-trick in a seven-nil win over Oldham, McLaren getting a hat-trick in a six-nil win over Rochdale and Dougal getting four in a six-two win at Bolton, and these obviously did much to keep the Club's fans in as good heart as possible at a time when war news was depressing.

Two other significant events occurred in 1941. On the 25th March Mr. Will Scott who had served the Club so faithfully and efficiently as trainer, coach and supervisor of team affairs, was appointed Secretary. Two months later on 24th May, the War Department took possession of the main grandstand, the practice ground, the Deepdale Road car park and accommodation underneath all other stands under powers conferred by the Defence Regulations 1939 and the compensation paid was £250 per annum.

The second half of the season was devoted to an extended League Cup competition. Though they had mixed fortunes in the qualifying part of this, based on a programme of up to twenty matches, North End did manage to qualify with Bobby Beattie joining the hat-trick men when he and Jim Dougal shared the goals in a six-nil win over Chester.

In the competition proper, Preston had an excellent chance of avenging a defeat by Everton two years earlier and seemed to be on the way with a draw in the first leg match at Goodison, but in the second leg at Deepdale went down two-one after extra time, both the visitors' goals coming from players not normally on the list of goalscorers, namely Joe Mercer and Welsh international Tommy (T.G.) Jones. A second Northern League table was worked out on the strength of the League Cup qualifying competition and the competition itself, the fact that teams had played different numbers of matches being balanced by working a total on the basis of twenty three games. Preston finished in twelfth place and the League was headed by Blackpool, while Wolves who actually won the Cup finished fifth. Yes, there were many anomalies in war-time football, but it did give the public much needed entertainment.

At a Board Meeting on the 2nd June, 1942 the Chairman Mr. J. I. Taylor pointed out the difficulties of running a professional team and it was decided to play only Junior football at Deepdale. Two teams were entered in the Preston and District League and in 1943 North End had junior teams in the Y.M.C.A. League and the Preston and District League.

Professional football started again in season 1944/45 with a three-nil win over Southport. Sharpshooter Jim Dougal was still available, while Jim McIntosh the speedy ginger haired striker had joined North End. Jack Wharton was still on the wing, but the side was not what it had been. In the League North Championship, Preston finished thirty third out of fifty six teams with eighteen points from as many games and, significantly, just twenty eight goals against twenty eight.

For the first time in war-time football the Club failed to qualify for the knock-out stage of the League North Cup and in the second of the League Championships which incorporated the League Cup qualifying competition, North End finished twenty ninth out of sixty clubs. A not very memorable season ended in mid-May with a four-nil defeat at Deepdale against Blackpool just a week after crashing eight-one at Bloomfield Road.

Happily in the same month there was an end to hostilities in Europe and in August the war in the Far East was also over. Football was not quite ready to return to normal however,

though in 1946 the organisation of the Football League teams was nearer to its pre-war form than it had been during the preceding six seasons. Whilst the two sections of Division Three became four, the First and Second Division clubs were formed into a League North and League South on a strictly geographical basis to reduce travelling.

Preston began well enough in the League North with a fine five-one win at Barnsley with George Mutch and Tom Finney back in the line-up and amongst the scorers. Midweek football was again permitted and on the following Monday, twenty thousand were at Bloomfield Road to see North End go down six-three after being level one-one at the interval. Then came a home defeat by Barnsley and it was clear that the side whose average age was rather high would not have things all their own way when divisional football returned the following season.

In a forty two match programme, the Club picked up just thirty four points and ended fourth from bottom above Bury, Blackburn and Leeds. Oddly enough being in just the same position as early in 1939/40 when the war brought a halt to the First Division programme.

If the Football League programme was not quite back to normal in 1945/46 then the F.A. Cup was. All rounds except the Final were contested on a two-legged basis in order to make the most of the end of war euphoria that sent crowds back to football grounds.

The third biggest gate (35,461) of the third round ties was at Everton to see Preston finally gain revenge for those two war-time Cup defeats. After a two-one win at Deepdale with John Livesey on the mark and then an own goal, North End were two-one down at Goodison at the end of normal time in the second leg. Jim McIntosh had got a goal in the second half and in the midst of great excitement Bill Shankly popped up with an equaliser in extra time to take Preston through four-three on aggregate.

Round four again provided formidable opposition in Manchester United, who were then playing home games at Maine Road because of the extensive war damage to Old Trafford. Preston went down one-nil there in the first leg, but then came through magnificently with a three-one second leg win at Deepdale, 'Shanks' again getting on the scoresheet together with John Livesey and Jim McIntosh.

Then came Charlton in round five, Preston could have scarcely had tougher opposition for they were at the time leaders of League South. First a one-one draw at Deepdale, striker Arthur Turner wiping out the lead that Jackie Wharton had given the

home side in the second half and then before a 50,000 gate at the Valley, North End crashed six-nil in the second leg with all the goals coming in the second half and winger Chris Duffy getting a hat-trick. Charlton went on to the Final in which they lost four-one to Derby in extra time.

The season ended in May 1946, with successive one-nil defeats at Chesterfield and Grimsby, but appetites had by now been wetted for the big kick-off in 1946/47 when First Division football was resumed at Deepdale and though the players that had been with Preston in 1939 were now six years older most of them were still available and eager to carry on the high standards attained in the years just prior to the war.

Chapter 6

The Peerless Plumber

North End kicked off the 1946/47 season with better results than had been achieved in the corresponding matches, at the beginning of 1939/40. The same fixture programme that had been planned for 1939/40 was used for the new season and compared with two goalless draws and a defeat Preston beat Leeds 3-2 at Deepdale, lost 2-1 to Sheffield and won 3-2 at Grimsby.

These results gave an early indication of the Club's prospects for the season ahead. The team seemed to have some forwards capable of scoring freely, but on the otherhand at least one query about the defence. Pre-war stalwart Tom Smith had moved to take over the managerial position at Kilmarnock, his first League club, and he was difficult to replace at centre half. Emlyn Williams, normally a full back, was the first man to be tried there in 1946/47, while the right back spot now went to Andy Beattie, who had begun his career in midfield, but was now developing into one of the most polished and classical full backs of his day, his cool, relaxed, constructive approach making him far more than a close marker and keen tackler.

Bill Shankly and Bill Scott were automatic choices for the other defensive positions, while in goal Jack Fairbrother, who had been with North End before the War but had not made his League debut, now came in for his first Football League game at the age of twenty nine. He was to miss only one League game in that 1946/47 season.

While there was keen competition for the left half position with Ken Horton, William Watson and Richard Finch main challengers, there was no question of who should play outside right, for during the war years Tom Finney had gained many representative honours including several wartime England caps and was clearly a contender for the England team in 'normal' internationals. Though he had been on the Preston books for many years, he did not, because of the war, make his First Division debut until the age of twenty four.

Another winger who had come to the fore during the war years was Jackie Wharton, a native of Bolton who had played for Wanderers and occasionally guested for North End during the hostilities. Small dashing and something of an exhibitionist, his enthusiasm and skill took him many times into opponents' penalty areas where he seemed often to go crashing to the ground. Some fans labelled him 'the greatest appealer since Doctor Barnardo', others claimed he had been tutored by Jimmy Dougal. Be that as it may he did earn Preston a number of penalty awards.

Jackie's main challenger for the left wing spot seemed likely to be Bill Jessup, a local lad who had been discovered with the town's schoolboys during the war, while to fill the gap created by the absence of Andy McLaren (still on army service in India) Willie McIntosh, a bustling goalscoring striker was signed from St. Johnstone for £6,000. This proved a wise move as namesake Jimmy McIntosh had moved to Blackpool and both George Mutch and Jimmy Dougal were by this time feeling the pace as they approached their mid thirties.

The first staff of thirty-six professionals for that first post war season therefore read:- **GOALKEEPERS** - Jack Fairbrother, Jimmy Gooch. **FULL BACKS** - Andy Beattie, William Scott, John Darly, Alan Squires, William Nuttall. **HALF BACKS** - Bill Shankly, Ken Horton, Emlyn Williams, Trevance Seed, William Watson, William Hamilton, Reg Simpson, Willie Brown, Richard Finch, William Robertson, Hubert Turner. **FORWARDS** - Tom Finney, George Mutch, Jimmy Dougal, Willie McIntosh, Bobby Beattie, Jackie Wharton, Willie Jessop, Tommy Hough, Harry Anders, Jimmy Anders, Albert Dainty, Andy McLaren, Leonard Icton, Harold Iddon.

There was also a group of young schoolboys and amateurs being groomed for stardom and included three who were to achieve success, **GOALKEEPER** - R. Horam. **FULL BACKS** - N. Atkinson, J. Parkinson, J. McNeela. **HALF BACKS** - R. Hesketh, R. Clayton, A. E. Parker. **FORWARDS** - J. McManus, K. Westworth, E. Bond, D. Hatsell.

Only one player was to become a first team choice for North End, Dennis Hatsell, a tenacious hard running centre forward. Amongst the half backs was a young man who was to captain England, Ronnie Clayton, and who was to be rejected by North End because he was considered too small. Clayton with his elder brother Ken, who Preston did want, went to Blackburn Rovers and fame. The third colourful personality was the goalkeeper Horam, now very well known around Preston as an established and highly popular night club entertainer, under the stage name

of Wandering Walter, cynics might suggest that he was not the first comedian to keep goal for North End.

The long awaited restart of League football on the 31st August, heralded two surprise team selections for the game against Leeds United. Tough Bill Shankly, despite his lack of height, was at centre half with Horton and Watson alongside him and McIntosh who had been expected to play centre forward was at inside forward, with Dougal leading the attack. Even though North End won 3-2 with a vintage debut goal by Finney, the directors were not blinded to shortcomings. Consequently all experiments were curtailed, Williams was brought in and McIntosh moved to the centre so that Mutch could return. At centre forward McIntosh was a great success. Although small, he was quick silver and deadly with the half chance. His first ten games left him with a personal tally of ten goals, a tremendous contribution to a spell that saw North End confirmed as a good average First Division side. Only the restrictions of age prevented the team becoming even further established among the leaders. Dougal, Mutch, Andy Beattie and Shankly, in that order, found the change from exhibition football to the competitive game brought demands they found harder and harder to meet, and their class was not always able to save their legs.

As early as October 1946 Mutch went to Bury. The next month Dougal was sold to Carlisle and Beattie became Barrow's player manager. With typical obduracy Shankly refused to yield, but by the time the 1947/48 season closed he was in the reserves for the first time since he had joined the Club. North End's plight was not helped by a sequence of misfortunes in the transfer market. Wharton did not prove to be the replacement for the underated O'Donnell that had been expected and moved to Manchester City for a fee of five thousand pounds. The following season, Alfred Calverley, who had played for Mansfield before joining Arsenal was signed, largely on the strength of a courageous display of strong running when opposed to the North End. That evidently had been one of his better performances and by October he was out of the side and soon after joined Doncaster. The greatest disappointment of all was the form of James Garth, a precocious young goal-getter from Clyde. In November 1946, he cost £6,000 being signed to fill the void left by the still unavailable McLaren, and long term with a view to succeeding Bobby Beattie. The faster pace of the English game caused Garth problems he could not overcome and after little more than a year at Deepdale he returned north to Clyde.

Even with these disappointments and facing a transitional period, North End might have become champions of the

Football League in either of the first two post war seasons. In 1946/47 they produced a run of fourteen games without defeat until finally beaten, surprisingly at home, by Middlesbrough. If this unexpected defeat had not been followed by defeats of 5-0 at Stoke and 4-0 at Blackpool, the title challenge might never have lost its impetus, and North End would have finished higher than seventh.

The following season 1947/48 the possibilities were even greater. Despite two serious losses from the staff, the side became an extremely competent outfit. The player who left was Jack Fairbrother who became unsettled and was eventually sold to Newcastle, but the most serious loss was that of the patriarchal figure of Will Scott. In April 1947 Blackburn Rovers advertised for a new manager to follow Eddie Hapgood. Scott was short listed and was offered the job, which he accepted. Clearly his position with a lack lustre Rovers was less enviable, but at least the Rovers were prepared to offer him something Preston had failed to do in more than two decades of service, the title of manager. Sadly for a man who had contributed so much to the game, his advancement had come too late. His health was poor and when he found that the strain of managership was too great, he was forced to resign.

Scott's influence in the dressing room was greatly missed, but surprisingly Fairbrother's absence was felt less keenly. Jimmy Gooch proved a more than adequate replacement and if courage was any criterion, he had no superior in the game. In front of him, David Gray a cool, classy full back who possessed exceptional speed, came down from Scotland having played for Dundee Violets and Rangers. He dovetailed well into a defence that also profited from the presence of the tall, well built, dark haired Ken Horton. Taking the lead from Shankly, both new men and Bill Scott became attuned to the art of the saving tackle, a quality only achieved by shrewd reading of the game and sheer hard work. At a time when most defenders operated in set areas their ability to appear in unexpected places was a valuable asset in restricting the goals against.

The attack was never prolific, but it did contain several regular goalscorers. Surprisingly Bobby Beattie lasted the years better than any of the pre-war staff. He had always been a polished and perceptive player, but he mellowed to a complete tactician, able to bring out the skills of all who played alongside him. And what skills they had. McIntosh, although unfortunate with injuries, an inevitable consequence of his involvement in the penalty area, was a consistent and spirited leader. His goal tally was not exceptional but he had the happy knack of scoring the crucial

goals that decide matches. So had Andy McLaren, an inside right who played with such classical style. He only returned from India in late December 1946, but by the end of the season he had gained an unexpected place in Scotland's team. McLaren was an intelligent player. He knew where and when to run. When players broke with the ball he realised how best to make himself available for the pass. Above all he knew and appreciated the genius of Tom Finney, and realised that if he could supply him with the ball anywhere inside their opponents half, he could make tracks for goal and await the centre. Accordingly at the slightest opportunity he would turn the ball wingwards. It could be said that possession of the ball was all Tom Finney needed to become immortal. Even that is an understatement, for in the memory of his bewitching balance and ball control that brought pleasure and pride to so many Preston fans, the awesome completeness of the player is often overlooked. Every facet of the game had been mastered by the most perfect player to grace an English pitch. With his powerful legs he could tackle like a full back and was never afraid to challenge even when the odds were stacked against him. His shooting was almost clinically accurate. In front of goal he had the composure and aplomb of all the great marksmen. Being of only average height it might be expected that he would be weakest when the ball was in the air. It was far from the case. He had immense athleticism, could compete with men six inches taller, and timed the ball to perfection. With his strong neck muscles he could power the ball with his forehead as fast as many men can shoot. If all the brains in the game sat in committee and designed a perfect player, they would come up with a re-incarnation of Finney, rivalled only by Pele as the possessor of every footballing virtue. His demeanor on and off the field was exemplary and is still a model that could be copied with advantage in the game today. Few, if any, could play like Finney but all could behave like him. His position on the wing was the one that first brought him fame. Here with the ball under immaculate control, with either foot but usually with the outside of the left, he traced intricate patterns around floundering full backs, yet was never noticeably over indulgent. His style had an economy of movement and directness that no other artist has matched. From the moment he received possession to the second he clipped the ball back from the by line, he never appeared to deviate away from a direct route. He made players in his path appear helpless with his ability to accelerate at will, and few ever made him have to resort to a dodge and weave role. Within three months of his belated League debut he was in the England team. Before the season ended he was well on the way to becoming a

legend in his own life time.

From the start of the 1947/48 season, Preston had the hallmark of champions. Though they began badly with a 3-1 defeat at Liverpool, they won all their next five games to rise to joint first in the table sharing the spot with Arsenal, who on the 13th September, arrived at Deepdale for an early season test of potentialities. It was a repeat of the memorable fixture in 1938, so much so that Preston's old hoodoo re-emerged to affect the game. Willie McIntosh, who was always in the thick of the fray, received an early injury that left him hobbling and in considerable pain. This setback did not alter North End's dominance of the game but there is little doubt that it did affect the outcome. Many half chances were made, but there was no other forward with McIntosh's flair for snapping them up. There was an occasion when the deadlock seemed likely to be broken, when crafty Joe Mercer used his hand to illegal but effective use on the blind side of the referee. The ensuing goalless draw suited the visitors, more than it did North End.

Such a small setback had only a minor effect on the outcome of the title race and two inexplicable losses of form were more valid reasons why the trophy did not end up at Deepdale. In mid November, North End were holding Huddersfield to a goalless draw at Leeds Road, until Albert Geldard robbed them with a last minute goal. Worse was to follow when they lost the next two games against Wolves and Everton. Even more critical was a disastrous period from Good Friday to mid April when six matches were played and five lost, the other being a 3-3 draw against Sheffield United. To add to the worries brought with this loss of form, the dependable and brave Gooch dislocated a shoulder in an unavailing fight with Wolves on 10th April and did not keep goal again until the following season. In all it was a painful debut season for the goalkeeper. His courage in diving at the feet of onrushing forwards brought him a well above average number of knocks and bruises. In the match against Rovers, he had received a very bad arm injury. Never short of courage he remained between the posts to give an amazing display of one arm goalkeeping that protected his side's two-one lead.

Such an eventful series of events relegated the Club once again to seventh place, but one particular match stands out amongst the all-time greats.

On 6th December, Derby County were the visitors and they must have come north with some hope, knowing that North End had lost each of their last three games. Soon after the start of the game they had no reason to doubt that their optimism had been unfounded. Two goals had been put past Gooch and more

important the North End defence deployed no signs of recovering from these setbacks. Raich Carter, the silver haired magician, just as he had done at Wembley 10 years earlier, spun a web of tantalising deception, and Billy Steel, the other inside forward was quick to display the evasive running and snap shooting that had justified a large transfer fee. Between them Angus Morrison, a gaunt leggy Scot with little first team experience, revelled in the service provided, eventually ending up with a hat trick. Torn apart in defence, and with the attack out of form, a humiliating defeat was in prospect when Shankly and Horton displayed their fighting character. In a situation when many half backs would have been content to contain the magical qualities of their immediate opponents, the two North Enders forsook all thoughts of defence to counter attack. Diminutive Harry Anders responded with a captivating display of mischevious feints and tricks and Preston were back on level terms. The pattern of the game had now been inexorably set and both sides were completely committed to all out attack and how the spectators were responding. The Deepdale roars could be heard well beyond Moor Park. As their wing halves drove forward the defences were left exposed and both sets of forwards seized their opportunities. Derby scored, then Preston, Derby another. Yet again North End equalised. With a December mist settling over Deepdale, the fans would have been prepared to settle for a 4-4 draw, but the gauntlet had been thrown down and the players were still on the goal trail. Shankly drove his men forward and with the game in its final stages, Preston took the lead for the first time. A quick follow up goal clinched the game and Shankly, McIntosh and McLaren had scored two goals each. However, this classic game had still to exhibit one more football gem.

In the closing minutes, Finney received the ball on the half way line and simply ran past man after man to end an epic with a goal to savour forever. The North End team deserves to be remembered, it was: Gooch, Gray, Robertson; Shankly, Williams, Horton; Finney, Beattie, McIntosh, McLaren, Anders.

And so to 1948/49 and just why it brought relegation is a mystery that has never been adequately explained. Many of North End's failures in the past had stemmed from lack of money, but at this particular time there was no shortage of available funds. The Club made a profit of £16,000 in 1946/47 and deferred ground improvements in order to strengthen the staff which had fallen to the lowest number in their history. War time restrictions on mobility of labour complicated recruitment, but it did not prevent the directors making notable captures. Club chairman James Taylor, was later to lament the fact that

Turnbull the centre forward at Hibs would not sign, for he would have made the forward line one of the best in the League. But twice Preston paid out five figure fees. The first was for Manchester United's full back Joe Walton, a tough tackling player sought by many sides at the time. The second was an astonishing fifteen thousand pounds with David Gray thrown in as make weight, for the Blackburn Rovers left winger Bobby Langton. The player was a current international which meant that two of England's best wingers were now at Deepdale. Langton had risen to fame as a youngster in the Rovers' promotion side of 1939. In style he was one of the new breed of powerful flank men, who considered that crossing the ball should be only part of their game. Possessor of a shot that was guaranteed to sting whoever intercepted it, he was ever keen to cut in and try his luck and was no novice with his head and was often at the far post when crosses came from the opposite wing. Langton's own crosses into the area were usually hard and low. Although the Rovers had just been relegated, it was not for this reason that the winger left Ewood. Newly married, he sought a Club house, but out of a number offered to him Langton could not find one suitable. Exasperated, Rovers' officials decided that it was easier to sell him than find him accommodation. There were other new faces at Deepdale, the Glentoran defenders Waters and Kane had been secured with an eye to the future, and a host of Scots, Corbett of Celtic, Davis of Kilmarnock and McVimish of Hamilton were brought down during the 1948 season.

It is hard to believe that the directors could have done any more to ensure that the Club would have a successful season.

The catastrophe that followed was undoubtedly precipitated by misfortune and injuries, but the lack of balance and co-hesion caused by so many new faces also played its part. The Scots, Corbett and Davis, were big disappointments and by the end of November both were in the reserve side. Even experienced players such as Scott and McLaren struggled to find form. Constant changes to cover injury and poor form resulted in the same team never playing in three consecutive games, and on only four occasions was the team repeated without change. All agreed that whilst these factors were important in North End's decline, the major one was the injuries sustained by Tom Finney which resulted in him playing in only twenty five games. As was to be seen so many times it was obvious that the Club's fortunes were synonymous with those of this talented player.

From as early as the second game of the season, it was clear that Preston were likely to be jinxed by the kind of luck that so often culminates in relegation. At Maine Road, Jimmy Gooch's

suspect shoulder was dislocated again after only five minutes leaving ten men to battle on desperately for some reward. Ken Horton in goal became the unlikely hero, but the team as a whole fought with tremendous valour to hang on to a goal advantage. Then in the last five minutes a disputed free kick and then a penalty were driven past the unhappy Horton and Manchester City had snatched both points. The winner came exactly ten seconds from the close. Ironically, Langton's goal that put North End in front was scored ten (some say seven) seconds after the kick off.

When at the end of 1948 only five games out of the twenty four played had been won, the spectre of relegation loomed and was not dispelled with some better results in April, but the drama was reserved for the last day of the season, 7th May 1949. With forty one games played Sheffield United were bottom of the League. North End had thirty one points and above them Huddersfield with thirty two points and an inferior goal average. North End played at Anfield and against all the odds won 2-0, with Bobby Langton playing centre forward. Huddersfield were playing at home against Manchester City and kicked off fifteen minutes after North End and so there was an agonising wait for the result from Leeds Road. When it came there was gloom and despondency in the Preston camp, for Huddersfield had won and North End's final flourish had been in vain.

While strongly criticised for complacency, the Club did not fail to take positive action to try and remedy the situation. To cover the absence of the injured Finney, Tommy Bogan, a war-time international from Celtic was brought south. In November two major acquisitions arrived within the space of a week. The first was Angus Morrison, Derby's reserve centre forward whose contribution in the December epic, had not escaped notice. Precluded from a regular place by the form of Jack Stamps he had deputised infrequently but had still scored thirteen goals. Born in Dingwall in Ross and Cromarty, Morrison had first played for Stirling before joining Derby. Five feet ten inches tall, but lean and leggy he was a fine sight in full flight for goal, with his long stride covering the ground fast and effortlessly, and he was difficult to pin down. As a result of the signing, Willie McIntosh was sold to Blackpool and when the two sides next met, he scored both goals for his new club. Even more surprising was the decision to exchange McLaren for Burnley's Jack Knight. A small, compact player, Knight who had also played for Bolton, was valued in the exchange at less than the Scot, and it is hard to understand how the Club could argue that the move had strengthened the team, particularly as both played at inside

forward. The move did not help North End. Despite a slight flicker of hope when they drew with Manchester United at Maine Road (their temporary home because of bomb damage to Old Trafford), they had left themselves far too big a leeway to make up and sank quietly down, leaving supporters completely bemused by the failure. The Club had many players who were of First Division standard, but too many changes had been made for there to be any hope of finding consistency.

A side with as many stars as Preston, had no reason to fear life in the Second Division, and only the need to establish a blended side prevented them bouncing straight back. As it was they wasted only one season and returned in 1951, in regal style.

During the brief setback in the Club's quest for the First Division title, the task of strengthening the side went on. There was the nostalgic re-appearance of Will Scott in the role that had always been denied him, that of manager. The first new player recruited was Willie Cunningham from Airdrie, a stocky menacing figure who introduced fear to the football pitch. It took courage for any winger to try and take him up on the left wing, indeed he was a frightening enough figure if you were sat safely in the stand. He weighed twelve stone of solid muscle and bone, possessed the barrel chest of a fairground bruiser and the uncompromising attitude of a slaughterhouse attendant. He liked to view his opponents in one posture only, without the ball, and to achieve this aim he co-ordinated every ounce of his weight into a strike for the ball that was like the kick of a mule. If beaten he never gave up and most wingers fortunate enough to have achieved this feat, preferred to part with the ball immediately rather than give him the chance of another attempt at challenging. Worse still for a winger, he looked like a miniature Rock of Gibraltar. Twelve stone was compacted into his below average height and he possessed a pair of the most bowed legs in the game. Even his looks were calculated to induce fear. They could have been hued from granite without the sculptor having provided the finishing touches. His whole face did not appear to contain a single curve, but consisted of a multitude of perpendicular cliff faces. Black curly hair and a saturnine complexion completed the effect. His home village was Hill of Beath in Scotland, where clearly something in the air produced these strange specimens. Contemporaries from the very same village were the Kelly brothers, Willie at Blackburn and Walter at Bury. All had the same petrous complexions, cubical concrete bodies and bow legs. Together they could have scared

the Mafia.

In front of Cunningham came another Scot not noted for standing on ceremony. He was a blond haired, fresh faced youngster from the Gorbals named Tommy Docherty. Shankly's reincarnation for undying enthusiasm, unquenchable spirit and the desire to be fitter, stronger and faster than any other footballer. Both of these men had great incentives to succeed. Shankly would have had to spend a dreaded existence down the pit if he had failed. Docherty knew that his future in the teeming, mindless misery of Europe's biggest slum was no more appealing. Accordingly he could be found training long after the other players had left the ground. He also had more natural flair than Shankly every possessed. Shankly had been a manufactured player, strong, fit and a dour competitor. Docherty had touches of artistry and perception that his predecessor could never have hoped to match. It was as a left winger that he made his debut, and certainly he possessed the control and flair to have succeeded there, if his demand for involvement had not made him such an ideal right half.

In December 1949, came confirmation that the Preston directors believed that their set back was purely temporary. They broke the British transfer record by paying £26,500 for the services of Sheffield Wednesday's inside forward Eddie Quigley. The man was a mass of paradoxes. Converted by Bury from full back he was a burly, thick waisted character, yet never relied upon force. Incongruously for one of a build that only evoked thoughts of the battering ram, he was a ball artist, quick footed and nimble. He was also not renowned for work rate and it used to be said of him that he could keep his shorts spotless, no matter how deep the mud lay on the ground. Yet he possessed a dynamic indolence seldom exerting himself, he influenced the game far more than players who tore around the field like young bulls in spring and when the ball fell on his left foot he would explode. The power of his shot was venomous and from any distance up to fifteen yards outside the penalty area he could force goalkeepers into undignified scrambling. His purchase was possible because of the earlier sale of a slightly disappointing Langton to Bolton. It was intended that Quigley and Finney would form a wing partnership capable of beating any defence. Perhaps the public's demand for success undermined the partnership. Possibly great wing pairings are born not forged, for it can be argued that one of the players must be prepared to take the secondary role. Whatever the reason the two rarely found affinity in each others styles and Quigley himself expressed relief when he was moved to inside left a few months later. Certainly he formed a far better

partnership with the less artistic, stong running Morrison who had superceded Langton.

Another wing half in the same style as Shankly was purchased from Wolves for £18,000 namely Willie Forbes. He was certainly not a pre-possessing figure, but his body was as tough as whipcord and he knew how to become involved in the thickest of the action. In 1947 he had been suspended by the F.A. for his part in a running feud with Alec Venters of Blackburn, during the course of a vital Championship deciding match. This incident illustrates Forbes' tough and competitive make-up, for very few men in the League would have relished a brief interlude with Venters, one of the hardest of hard men, let alone a ninety minute vendetta.

The Club in recruiting so many Scots once again modelled their style on the classic short passing Scottish game, though they endeavoured to eliminate many of the unnecessary flourishes of art for arts sake, that so many Scots were addicted to. Defensively the tendency was to use hard tackling players who were very quick to accelerate towards an opponent and give him little time to settle. With so many small men in the side it was a priority to find a well built centre half to cope with the menace of the high ball. From Middlesbrough came Harry Mattinson, a native of Carlisle, near six feet tall and close to fourteen stone in weight. He was a power in the penalty area where his fair hair could be seen rising above all other heads and if he had a weakness, it was because he was a one footed player. Before Mattinson could find a permanent place he had to contend with the man who flew 10,000 miles to prove that he could make the grade in League football.

Australian J. M. Marston (known to everyone as Joe) arrived in England in the winter of 1949, having been recommended to North End by a supporter who had emigrated after the war. His debut was on the 21st October, 1950 at right back and was far from successful and so little promise was seen in him that early in 1951 there was talk of him returning to Australia. Then came a fateful incident which brought tragedy and joy. Playing in the 4th round F.A. Cup tie against Huddersfield on the 17th January, 1951, Mattinson broke his leg and Marston was tried at centre half. The Australian took his chance gratefully and went on to be worthy of comparison with McLean, Tremelling, Smith and some even went so far as the peerless McCall. Although he acquired polish with experience, he was a player who never overlooked the fact that he was in the side to destroy. Broad shouldered and powerful in the air he was a dominating influence on other players, a rugged rock on which to base a defence.

After the traumas of relegation, there were high hopes that a side that had looked too good to go down would be good enough to make an immediate return, particularly as there was money available for strengthening it. Willie Cunningham had been signed during the summer, but he did not actually come into the side until the second game of the season when Grimsby were at Deepdale. By this time North End had already lost against newly promoted Swansea, despite a first half goal by Jack Knight that should have ensured at least one point. In fact this note of promise unfulfilled was to be the keynote of the season as the teams flattered to deceive with some promising results but no real consistency. Maybe there were too many comings and goings for the team to settle into any sort of rhythm and because of limited opportunities defenders Kane and Davie were amongst those who sought transfers.

There were also changes behind the scenes with Jimmy Milne taking over as trainer. He had, of course, played for Preston in the 1936/37 F.A. Cup final and the speed with which he dashed on to the pitch suggested that he was still capable of playing in an emergency. He was generally reckoned the fastest trainer in the Football League and when things went wrong on the field, fans were quick to say that few of the present side matched Jimmy in his hey-day.

Goalscoring was the main problem. For all the chances that Tom Finney and Co set up only twice did North End manage to score as many as four goals in a game, against Sheffield United on Boxing Day and against Hull in March. Against the 'Blades' Eddie Brown netted twice and he ended the season as top scorer with twelve goals. This one-time theological student, who had studied in the Channel Isles before being evacuated during the war, was one of the fastest strikers ever to wear the Clubs colours, but did not have consistent success with his finishing. He went on to get nearly 200 goals in ten seasons with Coventry, Southampton, Birmingham and Orient. Tom Finney, as usual, reached double figures, but that record transfer fee hung heavily on Eddie Quigley and though he played throughout the second half of the season after joining the Club in December, he managed only five goals.

One of Eddie's first games in North End's colours was the third round F.A. Cup tie at Third Division Watford, where Preston pulled back from a 2-0 deficit to earn a replay with goals from Eddie Brown and Tom Finney. A Wednesday afternoon gate of 27,000 saw the replay lost 1-0 to a well organised, but not outstanding side who were at the time managed by pre-war Arsenal stalwart Eddie Hapgood and ended the season in ninth

place in Division Three.

This was the lowest point in an undistinguished season that did at least end on a winning note, with a 3-0 success at Deepdale over Cardiff City before a 15,000 gate reduced because the F.A. Cup Final was being played on the same day.

This season also marked the end of an era when on 15th March, 1950 Chairman J. I. Taylor resigned because of ill health. Joining the Board in 1912 "J. I." resigned in 1921 and was re-elected in March 1925. In recognition of his sterling service to the Club in the late twenties and early thirties when he had saved North End and then rebuilt the team, he was, in 1936, elected a Life member. J. I. Taylor was made the second Life President of the Club and was succeeded as Chairman by Nathan Buck who was then Vice Chairman. Nat Buck became a director in September 1930 and was well known in football circles for his plain speaking and knowledge of the game and his term as Chairman not only started well but saw North End through a decade of success.

At the very start of the 1950/51 season, the last piece was slotted into the jigsaw. The switch of Morrison to the left wing had created a gap at centre forward which was filled by the acquisition of Charlie Wayman from Southampton. A small, but energetic player, Wayman had emerged in a bevy of talented Tynesiders following the war, and had quickly made the Newcastle centre forward position his own. Quick off the mark, the great Jackie Milburn described him as the most single minded of opportunists, he seldom influenced proceedings outside the penalty area, but no defender could ever afford to ignore him. No goal poacher was ever more lethal when he was quiet, for in a split second he had the ability to accept the smallest of chances. Patience was his main virtue and he was at his most dangerous with the completely unexpected through ball or the misplaced back pass. His acceleration was phenomenal and his calm in front of goal astonishing. Critics declared him a lucky player, inferring that his goals were not the products of creative play. True, many were not, but there was no luck attached, it was opportunism and skill.

After a 4-2 beating by Manchester City, few among the crowd streaming silently away from Deepdale on the opening day of the 1950/51 season, would have been convinced that they had been watching a team who would shortly equal a fabled League record. True, they had been without Finney, but their play had been completely devoid of the embullience and sparkle usual on soccer's first day. Scott and Beattie had exhibited signs that the march of time was being evidenced in their play, and Gooch in

goal had looked ill at ease. Edwin Brown, the well built local lad had failed to grasp the opportunity he must have dreamed about, when as a boy he watched the great pre-war North End side and did not lead the line to anything approaching the standard required. Only Quigley, who had seemed extraneous to the Club's needs had emerged as a potential match winner, scoring both goals and applying himself to the game with silken authority. For a month the side continued in uncertain form. Results were reasonable after that first game with Manchester City, but also inconsistent. A position trailing the leaders was not without its merits, but there were no signs that the gap could be closed. Attacking combination was hard to find and the form of Scott in defence was worrying. Young Cunningham was offered his chance but could not establish himself. Neither did Marston who had brought Australian resolution to the Central League side, when he was played out of position. Gooch lost his place to Newlands who was an immediate success. At Luton, on the 7th October where the side stole a 2-1 victory, he gave a display that had Preston followers turning back to the great days of Harry Holdcroft to find its equal. No such transformation could be made to the attack, where the players appeared to be unsure of where the leadership of the line lay. Neither Finney nor Quigley were anything other than model professionals, but their styles never dove-tailed and both possessed such natural aura that the rest of the side never appeared to know who to play to. To add to the problem the side's senior professional was Bobby Beattie, a quiet, craftsman in his own right, adding further confusion to what was a dichotomy of styles. As a consequence the honest toilers Horton, Brown and Morrison were often unsure of their role and a new inside forward like the sleek, little ball player from Queens Park Rangers, Freddie Ramscar, was in an invidious position. At the beginning of September a part exchange deal brought Wayman from Southampton with Brown moving south. Wayman's deadly opportunism made an immediate impact but results still did not support optimism for promotion. In a dreadful fortnight came two away defeats that brought immediate cries for action. The first at Barnsley by a margin of four goals to one was misleading, because the star of the game was the home goalkeeper Pat Kelly who broke Preston hearts with a succession of saves that bordered on the supernatural. No such alibi could be advanced for losing at Ewood Park on 4th November, 1950. Defeat was particularly hard to swallow since it was Rovers' first win for ten years against North End. Paul Todd had his finest hour for Rovers scoring both goals in reply to one scored by Quigley, but the star of the show was ex North Ender

Wharton. Before a crowd of 44,612 he produced a dazzling display of enthusiastic running and crossing that delighted the Rovers' fans. Even though North End staged a furious grandstand finish that prematurely aged many Rovers' fans, the defeat was regarded by Prestonians as a disaster.

As a sequel to this game Walton and Newlands were dropped in favour of Cunningham and Gooch, moves that appeared to have little to commend them unless as a guard against complacency, since both men had been tried previously. The newly constructed side on the 11th November beat Southampton at Deepdale 3-2 but received a serious set back when Harry Anders, whose sparkle as Finney's deputy had earned him a regular left wing spot, fell and fractured his collar bone. Ramscar was brought in to replace him with Morrison moving back to the wing, but the pairing lasted only one game. Their third consecutive away defeat at West Ham convinced the management that something radical had to be done, and they sought experience. Marston and Ramscar made way for Scott and Beattie. Shortly before the next game Eddie Quigley developed tonsillitis and was forced to stand down in favour of Horton. The next game was the start of a memorable and record run for North End and the details are:-

Nov.	25	Swansea	(H)	5-1 Wayman (2) Finney, Horton, Lucas own goal.
Dec.	2	Hull	(A)	0-0
	9	Doncaster	(H)	6-1 Horton (2) Wayman (2) Beattie, Bycroft (own goal).
	16	Man. City	(A)	3-0 Finney, Horton, Morrison
	23	Coventry	(H)	1-1 Horton
	25	Q.P.R.	(A)	4-1 Wayman (4)
	26	Q.P.R.	(H)	1-0 Wayman
	30	Cardiff	(A)	1-0 Wayman
Jan.	6	Leicester	(A)	3-0 Horton (2) Wayman (1)
	13	Birmingham	(H)	1-0 Beattie
	20	Grimsby	(A)	4-0 Horton, Wayman (3)
Feb.	3	Notts Co.	(H)	3-1 Finney, Wayman, Morrison
	17	Brentford	(A)	4-2 Finney (2) Horton (2)
	24	Luton	(H)	1-0 Horton
Mar.	3	Leeds	(A)	3-0 Finney, Horton, Wayman
	10	Barnsley	(H)	7-0 Finney (2) Horton (3) Wayman (2)

17	Sheff. Utd.	(A)	3-2 Forbes, Horton, Wayman
24	Blackburn	(H)	3-0 Forbes, Beattie, Gray (own goal)
26	Leicester	(H)	3-2 Finney, Wayman (2)
31	Southampton	(A)	3-3 Horton, Wayman (2)

Ironically even as the greatest run in the Club's recent history, was unfolding attempts were being made to strengthen the side. Perturbed by the weakness at full back the Club agreed terms for Newcastle's Douglas Graham, who came down shortly before the Swansea game, and returned home leaving everyone at Deepdale convinced that he would sign. Within the week came the surprise news that Graham had changed his mind and would not leave Newcastle. The player was shortly to regret his decision that excluded him from participation in a memorable feat.

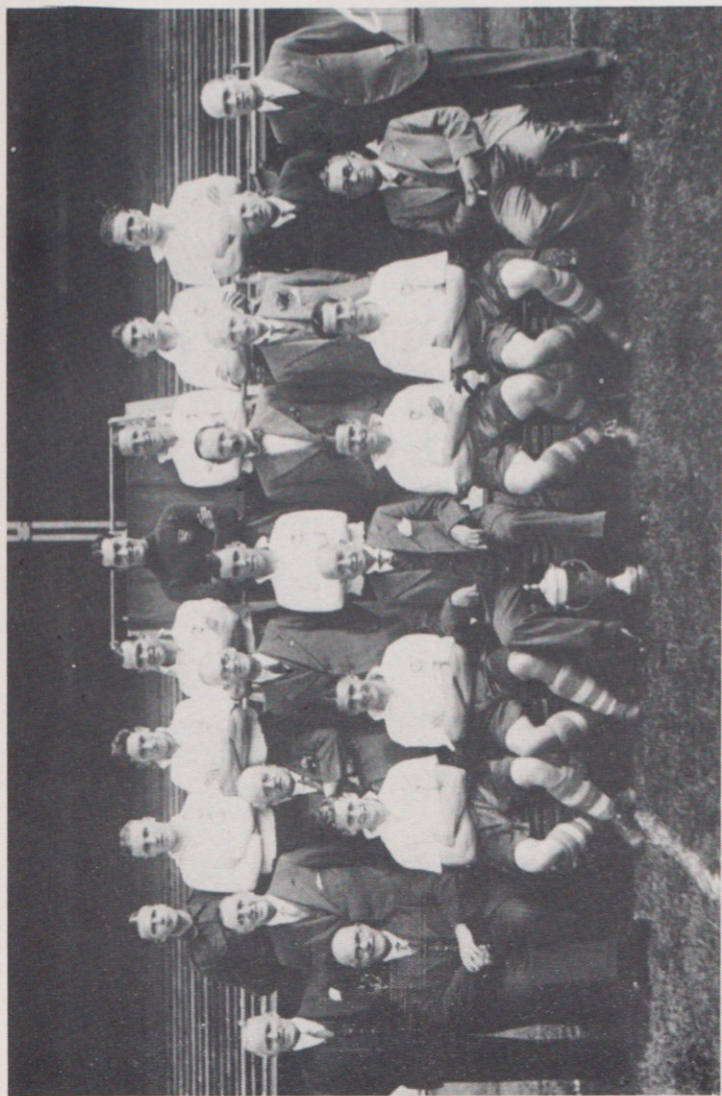
The records speak for themselves. Twenty League games without defeat. Fourteen consecutive League victories equalling the record set up by Burnley in 1946/7. Even those feats could have been extended if fate had been kinder. The draw that terminated their winning streak arose when Southampton scored twice in the last twenty minutes at the Dell. Their motivating force was none other than Preston born Edwin Brown who had a score to settle. The following week the defeat by West Ham, the last side to beat them in the League five months previously, could have been averted if Cunningham had not missed an eighty-fifth minute penalty. Records though were never the prime target, which was promotion and there was obviously an unconscious relaxation in the side's attitude when the point at Southampton was sufficient to ensure promotion with fifty five points, because three out of the last four games were lost.

Analysis of the sequence tends only to suggest the skill and influence of the legendary Finney. Opponents crowded to his wing to check the darting feet and delicately swaying body. Tackles employed to stop him started at the robust and often degenerated to crude violence but for the majority of the time all were ineffective. Without trace of emotion or rancour he calmly picked himself from the floor and replied with the perfect answer, a series of unfathomable sorties that induced mass panic. Reducing defences to utter shambles he created many goals for his colleagues, but he was so accomplished that he could score, as well as create, goals and his record would be envied by many present day strikers. The only pity of his achievements has been that he stood so supreme as a footballer and gentleman that his charisma has obscured the qualities of a very good supporting cast. Docherty and Forbes at wing half were key factors in the

Club's success. Both were energetic, tough and always on the move and totally involved in the game, capable of slogging through the rain, sleet, snow and mud of an English winter and yet come Easter when the temperature rose towards the seventies they were still as keen as on the opening day of the season. Of the two Docherty was more the artist, Forbes the old 'pro', yet in endeavours they matched each other stride for stride. With Finney cast in the role of creator and heavily marked, it was essential that some of the other Preston forwards assumed the responsibility of scoring goals. Wayman, of course, knew no other way to play and his ghostly presence in front of goal and spring heeled jumping brought rich rewards. More surprising was the ease with which Horton slotted into the inside right position. He had always been a model professional, fit, keen and consistent, but to achieve the conversion from orthodox wing half to goalscorer was a big step. He played intelligently, attempting only the simple things, but applied himself thoroughly to the task so that he did them well. In front of goal he displayed a remarkable assurance and no shortage of courage. It made him a menace with either head or feet. In all he was a remarkable uncomplicated footballer who simply got on with the job. To supplement the line the veteran Beattie was always the cool head required when the situation grew taught, able to slow the tempo and realise when to turn the game to advantage and his precise passing could split a defence time and again. Beattie had not played very well during the previous season, but was back for his swan song playing just as he had in his hey day. At outside left Morrison was competitive and determined.

Only one change was made to the side through the entire run, yet to a lesser team it could have proved fatal. On 27th January, Harry Mattinson, so essential to the Club's cause because he was the one man who could match the League's giants in the air, broke his leg in the Cup tie with Huddersfield. The big man was always an anachronism in the side because he was the only player who did not indulge in the close, quick passing style that was the hallmark of Preston North End. He was the one concession the Preston management were prepared to make towards force as opposed to artistry, and he knew the role well. Anchoring the side he added valuable confidence to the players who were well aware of Mattinson's strength.

Untypical yet necessary he was not the kind of man who could be easily replaced, particularly since Paddy Waters had just been sold to Carlisle for a fee of £3,500. Many fans were regretting the small supplement to the bank balance when the news of Mattinson's injury was received. Events proved their worries to



PRESTON NORTH END 1940/41
LEAGUE WINNERS (NORTH SECTION)
LEAGUE WAR-TIME CUP WINNERS

Back Row L/R: A. Buck (Asst. Secretary), W. Shankly, C. Mansley, F. Gallimore,

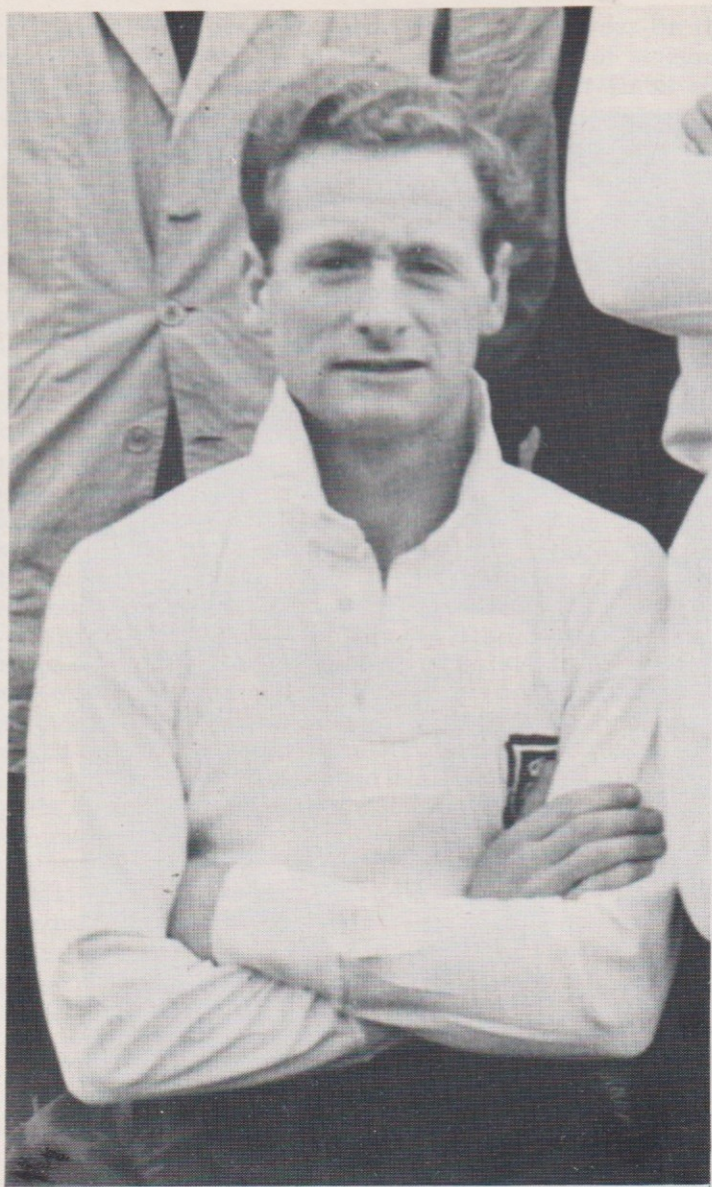
J. Fairbrother, A. Beattie, W. Scott, J. Dougal.

Centre Row L/R: W. Scott (Secretary), W. Cross (Director), Ald. W. Lucas (Director), J. Melling (Director),

T. Smith (Captain), E. Bradshaw (Director), T. Blackburn (Director), C. L. Holt (Director), H. A. Ross (Trainer),

Front Row L/R: N. Buck (Vice-Chairman), T. Finney, A. MacLaren, Jas I. Taylor (Chairman),

R. Beattie, H. O'Donnell, Ald. W. Rain (Director).



T. FINNEY

Joined North End as an apprentice.
originally a right winger later
converted to centre forward.
English International. One of the
greatest players in the game.



Wembley May 1954. A Royal handshake for Tom Finney.



R. BEATTIE

Signed 1934/35 from Kilmarnock. A polished and perceptive inside forward. Played the game with a great deal of class.



J. WALTON

Signed from Manchester United. A tough tackling left back much sought after by other clubs at the time he signed for North End.



W. CUNNINGHAM

Signed from Airdrie, a tough, menacing full back, settled in Preston.



T. DOCHERTY

Joined North End from Celtic. One of the jocular characters in the game. Always went out with a great will to win and gave 100% at right half.



T. THOMPSON

Free scoring inside forward signed from Aston Villa. Seasons top scorer on many occasions.



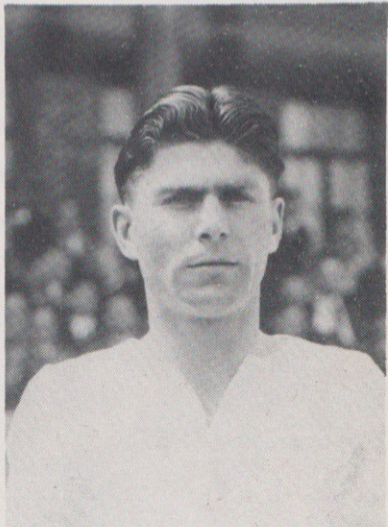
J. MARSTON

Australian. Came to North End in 1950 as a full back, but really developed when converted to centre half.



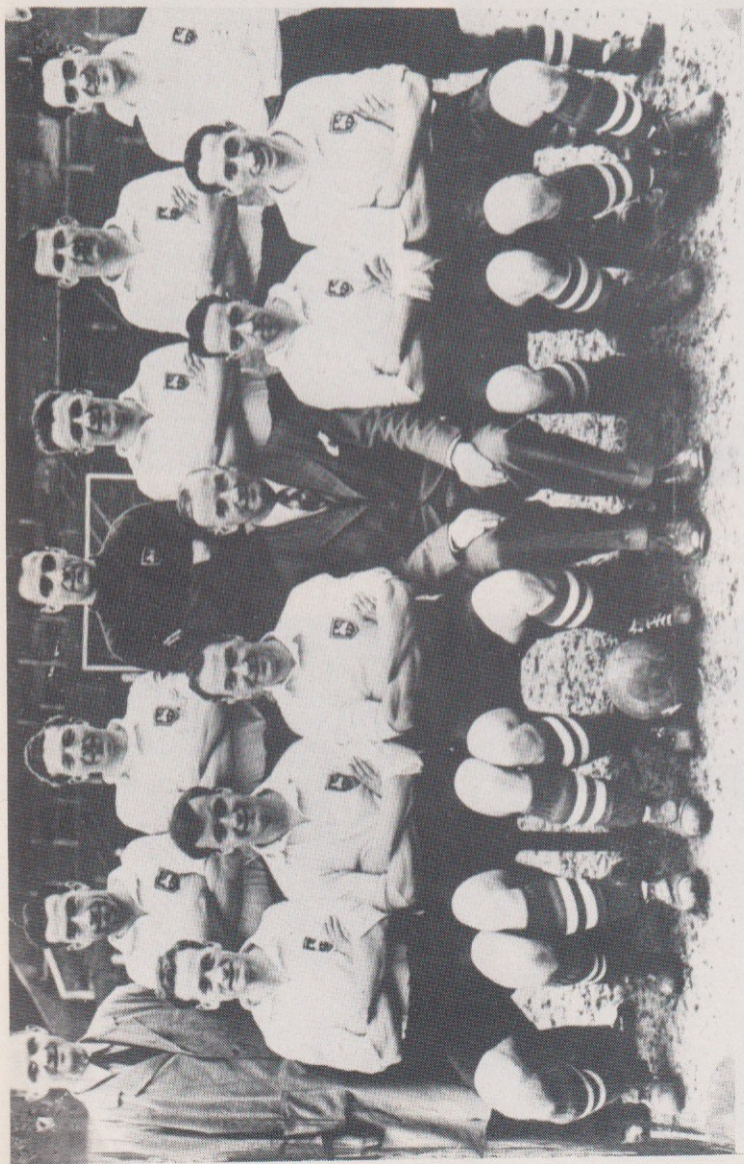
J. BAXTER

Native of Fife, signed from Barnsley, a skilful inside forward.



W. J. SCOTT

Local player - left back always played a hard game.



PRESTON NORTH END 1954 CUP FINAL SQUAD

Back Row L/R: J. L. Milne (trainer), W. Cunningham, J. Walton, G. Thompson,
T. Docherty, J. Marston, W. Forbes.

Front Row L/R: T. Finney, R. Foster, C. Wayman, J. Scott-Symon (Manager), J. Baxter, A. Morrison.



17th February, 1951 - Brentford v Preston North End in London



Tom Finney shakes hands with Luton's Alan Brown before his final League game at Deepdale.



Tom Finney says goodbye to fans after the Luton game.

be groundless. From the Central League side stepped Joe Marston, into a situation that was tailor made for a broad, brash, raw boned Australian. Raw and inelegant he may have looked, but no one ever pretended that he was there for his ball playing ability. With the same instructions that had been given to Mattinson, he took over the latter's role like a duck to water. Within two weeks both management and Martson realised that the year's wait and the long journey had not been in vain.

Losing Mattinson, the side slumped to a morale shattering defeat in the Cup though both goals only arrived after he had left the field. Only two men remained from the 1938 final, Preston's Beattie and Huddersfield's Eddie Boot, but the newcomers to the Roses battle were well versed in heroics. Not only did North End's ten men fight all the way, but the Huddersfield goalkeeper, Wheeler, was injured after half an hour and played the rest of the game on the wing. Harold Hassall went into goal and coped with such ease that many supporters were genuinely unaware that the switch had taken place. He even had the joy of surviving a penalty kick from Finney, though in truth he needed no expertise to achieve this. Even 'gods' have their off days.

The runaway promotion confirmed the belief that the Preston directors had always held, that relegation in 1949 had been an inexplicable tragedy that could not have been foreseen or avoided. In many respects it was an almost exact replica of the experiences before the first World War. So was the reaction of the Club's shareholders. Not many months before promotion was achieved, one of the members attempted to propose a resolution of no confidence in the Directors, and even though the Chairman Mr. N. Buck refused to put the motion to the meeting, it was indicative that all was not considered well. The chief cause of complaint was the failure of the Club to produce their own talent, a charge first leveled half a century before. The displeased shareholder alleged that despite grandiose schemes, only four players of Central League standard had been produced. As a consequence of this failure the Club had spent between £175,000 and £200,000 since the war on new players and had only recouped some eighty thousand pounds of that amount in the way of incoming transfer fees. The Club secretary disagreed with these calculations suggesting that the net difference was only £65,000 and Will Scott assured shareholders that a youth policy was being developed, albeit slowly. However, the mood of the meeting was plainly not sympathetic to the officials even if common sense prevented any open display of displeasure.

Like all clubs, North End had difficulties in pursuing policies of youth recruitment. They were short of a practice ground and

had been helped by the Whittingham Hospital Authorities who provided a pitch for the junior teams. They were also, like many clubs, reluctant to invest too heavily in young blood when compulsory national service prevented the advancement of some of the players. For instance, in the close season they signed the Chesterfield inside forward Bobby Foster, who was a P.T.I. at Catterick camp. With a surfeit of football in the Army, it was not until he was demobbed a year later that he was a positive help to the Club. Similarly the call up of three excellent young prospects Evans, Buckley and Hatsell halted their progress at an important time.

The unconscious fear of all promotion sides is that an initial failure to become attuned to the demands of the game at a higher level will result in a clamour for radical changes. In itself such remedial action can be self defeating, since it can destroy the sensitive balance of a carefully assembled team. Wisely the Preston directors were not prepared to rush in. The new season 1951/52 started well enough with an away win at Fulham on the 18th August and a three-nil victory over Charlton at Deepdale, but then the side were allowed to overcome the trauma of taking only three points from the next five games in their own style. Fortune assisted them, for before a crowd of 37,000 in the local derby with Blackpool, they had the considerable benefit of own goals by Crosland and Hayward in their three-nil win. The victory righted them onto a mid table course and by the end of the season they had become classified as a strong, competent, mid table side, particularly hard to beat at Deepdale.

Horton was first choice for the early matches in view of his contribution to the historic promotion race, but it was always apparent that at the first sign of loss of form the manager would go for the undoubted class of Quigley. When this happened the powerful inside man continued to be a complete enigma. No fault could really be found with his play for he was always a polished individual but his style was not naturally sympathetic to the short passing game that North End favoured. When half way through the season Blackburn Rovers, who were sliding towards Division Three, offered twenty five thousand pounds for his services, Preston jumped at the chance. The player was thirty two and had never fully repaid the confidence placed in him when he was acquired. Once again, as had happened with Percy Smith and was to happen with Else and Hawkins, it was the Rovers who got the best of the bargain. Not only did he help in dispelling relegation fears but he assisted in a Cup run that ended in the semi-final when Rovers were beaten by Newcastle, the eventual Cup winners, in a replay.

The Rovers played in a manner that Quigley could blend in with more easily and perhaps more importantly he was the fulcrum of the side. Later he was to form a great wing partnership with another ex North Ender in the twilight of an illustrious career. Bobby Langton, back at his first club after service with Bolton. At Deepdale the incoming transfers had all been conducted with long term objectives when the side first returned to Division One. Besides Foster, Joe Dunn a wing half came from Clyde and G. Kayle a right winger from Nottingham Forest. With the proceeds from the sale of Quigley, the Club realised that the time had come to provide for the imminent departure of loyal servants Bobby Beattie and Jim Gooch. From Barnsley came Jimmy Baxter, an inside forward who had no affectations about his play or appearance. In a notorious long grey raincoat with an ever present cigarette dangling from his lips, he was never the epitome of a footballer but on the pitch he was a different proposition. Converting defence to attack was Baxter's great skill. No wing partner of his ever suffered from want of the ball and if he seldom penetrated the penalty area himself, he still obtained goals with shots that were as unexpected as they were violent. To take over in goal North End signed George Thompson. He was well built, agile and very brave, not the greatest of goalkeepers but a solid, competent, professional. The Thompsons obviously knew something about the art of the keepers for his brother Des occupied the same position at Burnley. Little did anyone realise that the 1952/53 season's last game when Arsenal met Burnley, would cast Des and not George as the ultimate line in Preston's attempt for honours.

Foster and Baxter slotted neatly into the inside forward spots which had remained North End's weakness despite the undoubted class of previous occupants. They were both honest, capable of enormous work rate and happy to let the limelight fall on the thrusting Docherty, mercurial Wayman and, of course the nonpareil Finney. From an effective side the Club became a good one and as confidence grew a brilliant one.

The old enemy Arsenal, were the game's leading aristocrats at the time and having been cruelly deprived of the F.A. Cup in 1952 through the worst series of catastrophes ever witnessed in a Cup Final, they had a great deal of incentive to succeed. By Easter they were clear at the top of the table with a small group of clubs among whom Preston were prominent, anxiously working hard to close what had become a substantial leeway. Traditionally, Easter had become the testing ground of Championship pretensions, the point where a club pitted all its character and skill against a programme of three games in five days and hoped

to come through with sufficient return to support its ambitions. The task for Preston was a herculean one for it was considered that only a return of five or six points from the three games would keep them within reach of Arsenal. Normally clubs hope that included in the opposition will be one club at least who have no hopes or fears left, permitting a return to a situation where at least one game can be conducted with less tension. However, they had to play Sunderland, who eventually finished ninth, and Burnley, home and away, a club just as actively involved in the Championship hunt as North End.

Starting at Burnley on Good Friday, 3rd April, the Preston side performed majestically, displaying great character and composure and yet still falling short of requirements. They overcame a period of Burnley domination and an early goal to embellish their game with touches of marvellous class and assurance. It brought two goals from Foster and Wayman that left them just eight minutes from the desired result. Then Billy Elliott, the Burnley left winger, wrested a point from their grasp with an equaliser, and only Thompson, saved them in the final frantic minutes. The following day handicapped by having Wayman limping for almost the entire game they could not beat Sunderland and goals from Docherty and Finney only produced one point. Tuesday brought the first victory, by the odd goal in three over Burnley. The result at least removed the Turf Moor side from the challenge, some consolation for the loss of two valuable points, over the holiday period.

The potential challengers had now been reduced to three, Arsenal, Preston and Wolves with the odds still strongly in favour of the London club. Particularly onerous to Preston's cause was that the final four fixtures contained games against both their rivals, though at least this left their destiny in their own hands. The next game was against Wolves, a fixture neither could afford to lose. Predictably the result was a goalless draw, a divisive outcome that benefitted only Arsenal. Failure to convert superiority from a draw to a win, was the worrying factor for North End though in the next fixture their inspiration, Tom Finney, ended the sequence. Against Manchester City he played an important part in both goals and in doing so displayed all the skills and footwork that made him without equal in the game. His cross field pass to Baxter that tore the City defence to shreds, was one of the most immaculate, meticulous long balls ever seen at Deepdale. The recipient squared the ball across goal and Wayman's finish was decisive. Later Finney demonstrated the fighting spirit and enthusiasm that made him an exceptional player. Having beaten his full back, he crossed into the penalty

area. The goalkeeper, although reaching the ball, could not hold it and Finney forsook his role of artist to fight for the loose ball. After that, his centre to Wayman was again driven into the net.

With two fixtures remaining the table read:-

	Played	Points	For	Against
Arsenal	40	52	94	60
Wolves	41	51	84	60
Preston	40	50	82	60

At least the fixtures now gave Preston the advantage of an immediate confrontation with their own destiny, for the next visitors to Deepdale were none other than the League leaders, the old enemy Arsenal. The loss of a point would have been sufficient to take the championship to Highbury so that the advantage of playing on home territory was to some extent offset. Making the match even more intriguing was the style of the teams. Preston favoured the close passing Scottish style whereas Arsenal preferred long passes and dangerous centres, but both teams utilised wingers to the full, and it was here that most believed the game would be decided. The key confrontations appeared likely to centre around the way that the experienced Lionel Smith coped with Finney and Bill Scott with Lionel Roper, the thoughtful right winger for Arsenal. As expected these clashes did prove decisive. Scott played one of his finest games to subdue Roper but Smith was never comfortable against the wiles of Finney. In the first half Arsenal with the advantage of sun and wind at their backs barely managed to stay on equal terms. Afterwards without the elements they were sunk. If rugged Ray Daniel, their Welsh international centre half had not produced a superb display of defiance and robust tackling, the score would have been more than the 2-0 which gave North End both points. The win meant that the Championship struggle would be decided by the last games to be played with North End against Derby and Arsenal against Burnley.

Goal average now entered the consideration for with both teams bracketed at the top of the table, only the Londoners better goal scoring record kept them in front. The final fixtures for both sides were in mid-week because the season had ended but for rearranged games. North End were away to the already relegated Derby County on the Wednesday, Arsenal at home to Burnley on the Friday.

There was a pre-match scare for North End when the Club doctor ruled that Finney should rest a groin injury, but the Preston management were quick to point out that he could do this all through the close season. Had he only been able to hop on one foot it is probable that he would still have appeared.

Throughout the first half Derby were well in command. McLaren set up an easy chance for Lee, which went begging and Preston looked nervous and overawed. Thompson was the most active goalkeeper but fortunately Derby were not renown for their marksmanship that season. Two minutes before half time came the vital break that Preston needed. Finney caused havoc down the right, Musson the tough ex-miner was back to cover and his late challenge sent Finney sprawling inside the penalty area. The winger, cool and unflurried in a crisis, converted the spot kick himself and Preston were a step nearer.

Throughout the second half, Docherty marshalled his defence so well that there was little cause for alarm and as the final whistle sounded, Preston were two points clear at the top and hoping that Burnley could take a point from Highbury. Otherwise the title was destined for Arsenal on goal average.

There was a poignant situation in the game for Burnley's goalkeeper, Des Thompson, went into it knowing that his display could well win his brother George a Championship medal. The pitch had been subject to forty eight hours torrential rain and it was not the kind of surface on which a tense Arsenal side would have wished to play. Every little mistake magnified to near catastrophe and when little Roy Stephenson burst through to put Burnley ahead many of the Arsenal players looked despondent. Perhaps then, more than ever in their history, the aptness of the 'Lucky Arsenal' tag was demonstrated when, in an effort to breathe life back into the challenge, red haired Alex Forbes lashed at the ball in the Burnley half. It was from outside the penalty area and without excessive force but it took a deflection and rolled over the line. Arsenal had been behind for barely sixty seconds. Four minutes later Lishman had them in the lead and within ten minutes came the most bizarre goal of the season. A Burnley defender booted the ball from the penalty area, it struck a colleague and was deflected to the feet of Arsenal forward Logie, who would have been offside if the ball had not touched a defender. He had only to tap the ball into the net.

At half time the Burnley management let their side know exactly what Lancashire pride expected of them. Jimmy McIlroy who in the first half had been very subdued suddenly grasped control of the game and on a sodden surface laid on a stream of passes to his fellow forwards. From one of them Elliott reduced the arrears to a single goal and Arsenal fans were again on edge. Burnley stormed forward as if their own prospects were at stake, a dramatic change of attitude from the first half when they appeared to have little heart for the game. As pressure intensified

the chances began to come. Elliott from close in had the opportunity of a lifetime for with Swindin helpless and trying to regain his feet in the cloying mud he shot hurriedly into the side netting. Bill Holden wriggling clear in the penalty area was sent floundering, but the referee allowed for the conditions and waived play on. So great was the tension that the legendary Arsenal manager Tom Whittaker was unable to watch the final minutes and five minutes from time sought the sanctuary of the dressing room. It was not until his mud caked, sweat soaked players trooped into the changing room, aglow with relief that he knew that his side were champions.

Back home in Preston the fans could only wait for the news bulletin that shattered their hopes. At least at that time they only knew the result and were not aware that two 'mickey mouse' goals and an indulgent referee had conspired to rob them of the Championship by point one of a goal, the fraction by which their goal average was inferior to that of Arsenal. Never had a side more cause to regret the times when they failed to capitalise on their chances created, for there is no doubt that on many occasions North End could have shown more killer instinct and humiliated beaten opposition. As it was they too often played the traditional Preston role of football artists instead of adopting one of destroyers.

Discounting the disappointing climax North End had experienced their share of real tragedy that season. On 14th February, 1953 George Thompson performed the role that any brave goalkeeper knows he must. Leaving his goal line he faced alone the physical challenge of stopping an onrushing forward. At the best of times it requires courage but more so when the man bearing down was Derek Dooley, a hugh gaunt red haired Yorkshireman eager to add more goals to his already impressive tally. To his credit Thompson never hesitated and Dooley certainly had no thought of pulling out. Both players were on a collision course and they met with a sickening thud. It was obvious that Dooley was seriously injured and so it proved when it was found that he had fractured a leg. Worse was to follow when complications set in and the injured leg had to be amputated.

Not only Sheffield Wednesday but England had cause to mourn the loss of a man who had, at the age of twenty three, scored sixty two goals in sixty games and had appeared destined to play for his country.

Tragedy's bitter taste was to linger at Deepdale for far longer than any club should have to experience it. Just twelve months after North End had lost the League championship, the Club

were again the focal point of football attention. The venue was Wembley, the occasion the F.A. Cup final. This had to be Preston's consolation. With one exception their path to the twin towers had been relatively smooth. Away victories at Derby and Lincoln had been followed by a resounding 6-1 win over Ipswich. The draw then took them to Leicester and a punishing game when physical strength completely overshadowed the arts and skills of the game. Leicester had sized up the opposition as had the Daily Express reporter Bill Fryer. "They are little men these Preston forwards, physically incapable of giving thrust for thrust and even their greater agility cannot keep them out of trouble for all the time".

Finney as ever, paid the penalty of his reputation. On four occasions out of the first five times he touched the ball, he was left prostrate on the floor as the opposition decided that muscle might defeat brain. By half time North End were in trouble. Ron Jackson had subdued Finney to mere mortality and Leicester's midfield maestro Morris had gained control of this vital area of the field. If his colleagues had followed his lead and abandoned the physical approach for one more scientific then North End must have crumpled. Instead supremacy went begging for want of perception. Granted a stay of execution, Docherty, was fully prepared to battle with the toughest and he quickly organised a ferocious defiance, finding able support in Cunningham and Walton.

If Finney was subdued he had not been tamed. Half way through the second half he demonstrated again the completeness of his ability. Jackson who by now was playing with great confidence suddenly realised what many other full backs already knew. Finney was a genius, for in a flash the maestro was past him. The cross to Wayman was perfection and the flick to Morrison cutting into the penalty area from the left wing, was its equal. With cool deliberation the winger controlled the ball, spotted the gap at Anderson's right hand post, waited for Baldwin's commitment to the tackle and then shot hard to score a well deserved goal. Fifteen minutes from the end Thompson's misjudgement of Jackson's long free kick took the tie back to Deepdale, but it would be churlish to dwell on the error. The goalkeeper had already made a magnificent full length save from Hines to sustain North End's defiance. This though was an escape not a hard luck story. The draw that followed at Deepdale on the Wednesday took the tie to a third game and a 3-1 victory at Hillsborough at last settled it. Most sides who reach Wembley have to live through a desperate situation. North End were no exception. The semi-final at Maine Road though held no

traumas and Sheffield Wednesday fell to goals from Wayman and Morrison.

The conclusion was inevitable. This was to be Finney's finest hour. The previous year Stanley Mathews had printed an indelible impression on football's showpiece. Now the Preston plumber had the stage and every North Ender knew that what Mathews could achieve Finney could emulate and improve on. The opposition grew meaningless. Somehow it became a complete inconsequence that West Bromwich Albion had, until hit by injuries, played the finest football of the season. The dire blows that stopped their rampant march to the First Division title, leaving them runners up to Wolves, had served to lessen their stature. Such thinking ignored fine players like the teak tough energetic wing half Ray Barlow, the solid dependable Jimmy Dugdale, Ronnie Allen a roaming cultured centre forward and his goal scoring twin Jimmy Nicholls. They were all great players but they were not gods and at Olympus such mortality would be exposed. Seldom can one man have entered a Final with such heavy demands on him as did Tom Finney that day.

If Preston had become synonymous in the public's eyes with the mythical one man side then the feeling appeared to have spread to the players. From the onset of the game Finney was plied with the ball and West Brom, to counter this obvious move, had pushed Len Millard up to tight mark his man. Even if that failed the straw blond head of Barlow lurked nearby. Besides them was the shrewd Jimmy Dugdale ever ready to make up a trio of snapping boots and enveloping legs. Finney began to suffer. Occasionally even three men were insufficient to chain him but Preston had developed Cup neurosis. The rest of the line forgot the fundamental principal of exploiting space, watching instead Finney's personal battle on a lonely right hand touch line. Before a colleague could recover from the hypnotic effect of the confrontation Finney would be entangled by a further defender. By the time the game was twenty minutes old, it was obvious even to his most fervent admirers that Finney was not going to be North End's match winner as he had so often in the past. Albion's tactics were completely successful and North End's attacking contribution was minimal.

Even West Brom's opening goal was a direct result of the tension generated by the occasion. Cunningham forsook available options to attempt to find Finney. The pass was perfect for a raiding winger. Unfortunately it was Albion's left winger George Lee who snapped it up. He sped for the goal line, drew Thompson with aplomb and cut the ball perfectly for the mobile

Allen to score casually. A goal given away through anxiety.

Tommy Docherty, tactically astute in a sea of bewilderment heeded the lesson. From the kick-off he stormed upfield dummied to pass to Finney and then hit the ball across the pitch to the left wing. Morrison might have been neglected all afternoon, but he was still admirably available. He rose on those awkwardly knobbly legs and headed firmly into goal. The equaliser had taken just forty seconds.

The half time score remained deadlocked but the initiative was with North End. They had survived the problems stemming from their own tactics, surrendered a gift goal and still found equality. Those fifteen minutes in the dressing room should have been amply sufficient for any coach to revise tactics and send the team couraging for victory.

Within minutes such theories appeared to be well founded. Marston brought the ball from defence and found Docherty who pushed the ball wide to Finney. Foster made himself available so Finney played it square and shouted for the one-two. Using the winger as the foil the inside forward changed the direction and lashed it down the middle exposing West Brom's defensive weakness. Blanket coverage of the Preston right had weakened the centre of the defence, and North End had the man for the situation. Charlie Wayman had spent the afternoon waiting for passes that never came, and positioning for crosses that were never hit. Yet such frustrations had not blunted his awareness. With no cover in sight he displayed the tremendous acceleration from the standing position that made him a feared opponent, and was away in flight into a quarter of the field clear of West Bromwich defenders. The speed and direction of the move left the centre forward with only goalkeeper Sanders to beat. He advanced to the edge of the area but Wayman never came within two yards of him as he veered wide to his right and ice cool directed the ball into the net.

For a split second silence descended, then West Brom's complaints swelled into a tumult that surpassed Preston's celebrations. The cry of off side rang around the ground but the referee and linesman would have not of it. Reconstruction is impossible. Certainly Wayman was usually positioned up to the last line of defenders either just onside or just offside, but his tremendous acceleration often led him being adjudged offside when he was in fact not so.

If the decision was advantageous to Preston it was soon nullified. West Brom attacked with vigour and Barlow took the ball into the penalty area. The referee pointed to the penalty spot to give his judgment of the incident though Docherty held strong

views about the award, maintaining that he and Barlow merely ran into each other. Ronnie Allen was the deputed penalty taker, but it is strange that the picture which received acclaim was taken at the other end. Sanders, who had only gained a Cup Final place because the career of the regular goalkeeper Norman Heath had been tragically ended by a spinal injury, could not bear to watch. Holding the post for support he turned his back on the play. It was a photographer's scoop, but even so it was nothing to the drama at the other end. Allen strolling up to place the ball found that the turf had been kicked off the spot and left a hole. Playing fair he moved the ball back. A Preston voice objected, the referee interceded and Allen was forced to scoop what mud he could find to make up the deficiency. Even so he was forced to move the ball back a fraction from its correct place. After his gardening had taken what appeared to be an age, Allen wiped his hands on his white shorts and commenced his run up. The ball struck the divoted patch, flew low and the clawing hands of Thompson made contact. There Preston's miracle ended. Thompson full length and his finger tips could not keep the ball from crossing the line. The score was back to stalemate and it appeared that nothing would ever separate the sides.

From that point the game became too tense for a classic. Allen and Nicholls probed and prodded at defensive weakness. Even Walton, normally the coolest of men, succumbed to the pressure. His attempted back pass was the hardest shot of the game and Thompson flinging himself to one side produced the save of the afternoon. North End's attacks by contrast lacked conviction petering out as if they knew that without Finney they were not going to break through again. The minutes ticked by with North End now content to survive. Two minutes to go. The referee had already taken the signals from his linesmen when Kennedy the West Brom right back halted another tentative attack and his clearance found the man who had displayed most perception that afternoon. Paddy Ryan, the capricious Irishman. The result of the combination was a long ball from Frank Griffin to chase down the right touch line. He nodded it forward to beat Walton's challenge, produced a last gasp acceleration to check the ball before it ran for a goal kick and looked up. Marston was making the diagonal run to intercept him. Griffin cut inside, side stepped the charging Australian and swerved past, running along the goal line so that a shot at goal seemed impossible. There appeared to be only one option to cut the ball back but a glance told him that every West Brom player in the area was marked. Thompson at the near post waited for the left foot shot that would be needed to create any angle at all. Then Griffin produced the touch of

unorthodoxy that wins matches. He struck the ball accurately but not hard with his right foot. Thompson convinced that he would hit it with the other foot was confused and went down too late. The ball slipped gently beneath him and rolled inside the far post before Cunningham could reach it. A minute later the game was over and North End's participation in Cup Final drama had continued.

Despite injury problems North End had also done quite well in League games during 1953/54. Though the final position of eleventh may not look particularly impressive it proved that Preston had the beating of any team on the day. In the space of four days at the end of August, North End won at Middlesbrough and hammered Sheffield Wednesday 6-0 at Deepdale. In the New Year 4-0 wins over Newcastle (on their own ground), Manchester City and Portsmouth, the Club then tuned up for the F.A. Cup Final with a remarkable six-two trouncing of Spurs at White Hart Lane.

These remarkable results were inevitably interspersed with a number of disappointing ones, but despite the Club's mid-table position the tally of eighty seven goals was second only to the ninety six chalked up by First Division champions Wolves. Charlie Wayman (24), Jimmy Baxter (15), Bob Foster (27) and Dennis Hatsell (11) all reached double figures in League games, while Angus Morrison got four vital F.A. Cup goals in addition to his eight in the League. Six players capable of getting above ten goals a season, how many a subsequent North End manager must have longed for such a combination. Of these Dennis Hatsell's contribution was perhaps the most remarkable. He had progressed through the Preston junior ranks to become a regular Central League attack leader, ready to step in if and when Charlie Wayman was unfit. He got his chance in a game at Old Trafford in September, when Bob Foster was injured and quickly settled down alongside Wayman. In only his third game he got both goals in a 3-2 defeat at Highbury and when he did later take over from Wayman he was equally effective. The amazing thing to modern eyes is however, that when all the forwards were fit Dennis was usually out of the team despite his fine record of eleven goals in seventeen games. Like many an effective Preston striker over the years, he was comparatively lacking in inches, but he was a most reliable finisher who in another era would have been utilised far more often.

Jimmy Baxter and Joe Marston were Preston's two ever presents in that exciting 1953/54 season, but with all the players available for the new season the Club could reasonably hope for better luck with injuries and perhaps even more success.

Certainly there would be healthy competition for places. As so often happens, however, pre-season hopes were not fulfilled.

Though North End kicked off in August 1954 with the same team that had come so near to winning the F.A. Cup just over three months earlier, the Club were under the charge of a new manager. After only one year at Preston Scot Symon had been tempted back to his native Scotland to take up the prestigious post of manager of Rangers and had been succeeded by fellow Scot Frank Hill, who had been capped three time for Scotland before the War, had hung up his boots and taken up a coaching position at Deepdale, but had started playing again during the War. Incredibly he resumed his playing career again after the war, despite being over forty at the time and he played for two seasons with Crewe in Division Three (North) before succeeding Cliff Britton as manager of Burnley.

Hill had been manager at Turf Moor for six years when he joined North End and his First Division pedigree seemed to be in evidence when Preston kicked off with one of the most explosive starts ever. A 5-0 win over Manchester City in the opening game, Charlie Wayman getting a hat-trick, was followed by a 5-2 win at Cardiff in midweek and after a 1-0 defeat at Everton, North End romped home 7-1 in the return game against Cardiff and drew 3-3 with Newcastle. Twenty goals in four games with Wayman, Foster and Baxter getting five goals each, this was the soccer to draw the fans and already a gate of 76,969 had seen the game at Everton, only 1,300 below the Goodison record and the largest crowd ever to see North End in a League game.

Then came a shock, Charlie Wayman was transferred to Middlesbrough and though goals still flowed freely on occasion, as in a 5-0 win against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane, near the end of September and a 6-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday a month later, the goal machine never ran consistently again. Hopes of a spectacular Championship win gradually faded disappearing at the turn of the year when in a spell of nine games only one was won.

Though several players had their moments in the number nine shirt there was no-one who was really an adequate replacement for Wayman. Dennis Hatsell did well enough to earn selection for an F.A. eleven after a total of only 23 League games; Peter Higham, who had played once for Portsmouth four years earlier and had failed to win a first team place in a season and a half with Bolton, had a few good games including one at Villa Park in November, when he scored twice in a two-one win, and Ken Waterhouse who made his debut after five years on Preston's books opened his scoring account in the very last game of the

season at Charlton.

None played regularly however, and it was Jimmy Baxter (17) and Bob Foster (13) who made the leading contributions to the overall tally of eighty three goals, which was once again the second highest total in Division One. Though North End conceded sixty four goals, their goal average was second only to leaders Chelsea, but it was the goals conceded that not only reduced the points tally but also prevented the Club going far in the F.A. Cup. Fulham were beaten three-two at Craven Cottage, but a real thriller at Deepdale in round four ended in a 3-3 draw with Sunderland who had led two-one at half time. In a grandstand finish Angus Morrison and Bob Foster got the goals to add to an earlier one by Tom Finney and in the replay Sunderland went through to round five, North End's "Roker Bogie" had still not been laid.

If entertainment rather than results were the keynote of 1954/55 then 1955/56 was the season that just didn't happen as far as North End were concerned. Before it opened Preston were being tipped alongside Manchester United as Championship contenders and for the first eight days of the season Preston lived up to this forecast. A 4-0 win at Everton, a second win over Luton at Deepdale in midweek followed by a four-three thriller against Newcastle again at Deepdale on the following Saturday. Goals were flowing freely from all the forwards with Tommy Thompson newly signed from Aston Villa, looking a more than adequate replacement for Sammy Baird, who had gone to Glasgow Rangers, following Scot Symon, the manager who had signed him for North End a year earlier. Another Scot, Sammy Taylor, Whom Frank Hill had signed from Falkirk, also fitted in well with a front line that looked as good as any in Division One.

Defensively however, things were less happy, Joe Marston had returned to Australia and Harry Mattinson was not quite the player he had been before breaking a leg. The mighty Willie Cunningham also had a spell on the injured list and the season spluttered uncertainly. There were highlights of course as when North End won six-two at Bloomfield Road at the end of October, when George Farm injured an arm and played on the wing for 'Pool for much of the game and headed one splendid goal from a Matthews cross. There was also the five point Easter programme that included wins in London on consecutive days, four-nil at Tottenham and one-nil at Chelsea and these proved vital when after losing each of the last three games North End were only a point above Huddersfield, who went down.

Though Tommy Thompson scored twenty three goals and Tom Finney seventeen, the lack of a regular goalscoring number

nine was now being felt. Dennis Hatsell did not maintain his explosive goalscoring of his first season, and Eddie Lewis, who was signed from Manchester United in December, got only two goals in eleven games. There were weeks when things did not go right for the forwards, the fans looked longingly at the goals Charlie Wayman was scoring for Middlesbrough and Peter Higham for Nottingham Forest, though whether they could still have netted regularly in Division One is debatable. Less debatable were the goals that Eddie Brown got in spearheading Birmingham's drive to the F.A. Cup Final.

Somehow it seemed at times that too many players had lost a little of their edge together. Even George Thompson lost his place near the end of the season, Fred Else coming in to add to the scattered appearances he had made since moving from Wigan in 1953. In fact apart from Thompson and Finney in attack, there were few players who could look back on a really good season. Without the tenacious endeavour of Tommy Docherty, who missed only one game in midfield, North End would almost certainly have landed in Division Two again.

But if 1955/56 had been a disappointment the following season was a most pleasant surprise, opposite in almost every respect to its predecessor. It began most unimpressively. Willie Forbes had moved to Carlisle, Tommy Docherty was said to be unsettled and there seemed no obvious solution to either the central defensive problem or that of leader of the attack. Nor did the opening results do anything to raise the spirits of North End followers. On the first Saturday of the season 18th August, 1956, Spurs came to Deepdale and won four-one. Two days later Cardiff came and won three-one, North End then travelled to London and lost one-nil at Chelsea and then it was a shorter journey to Old Trafford and a much improved display before going down three-two.

Four matches and no points, but then came the return match against Cardiff and a 6-0 win, five of the goals coming in a memorable first half to chalk up North End's biggest win since October 1954. Three days later another visit to London ended in a two-one win at Highbury - the first win there since 1924. Two changes, made just prior to the appointment of Cliff Britton as manager, seemed to have made all the difference, the moving of Joe Dunn from wing half to centre half where consistent solidity had been lacking since Joe Marston's departure and the dramatic move of Tom Finney, still one of the game's top wingers, to centre forward. Tom underlined once again that a good player can play anywhere and seemed to have more opportunity in this position of bringing out the best in his colleagues.

Les Campbell, who had come from Wigan in 1953, came in at

outside right and did all that was required of him, but an extra dimension was added a few weeks later when Les Dagger, a close season signing from West Auckland, took over, Les's arrival in the team coincided with another runaway win, six-nil against Sunderland when once again five goals were scored in the first half. Tommy Thompson got a hat-trick. He was now a much more complete player than when he had been chosen rather prematurely for England five years earlier, and deservedly played again for his country against Scotland in the following April, when his immediate opponent was club-mate Tommy Docherty, who was also back in favour with his country's selectors.

Goals were now flowing freely and in one four-match spell near the turn of the year three goals each were scored against Aston Villa, Wolves and Manchester City and four at Charlton. The only one of these games that was lost was a remarkable one at Wolverhampton when North End finally lost four-three despite holding a three-nil lead at one stage. This was to prove the last defeat for three months and by this time North End had enjoyed a promising F.A. Cup run that ended after another free scoring spell. In the course of these fifteen League and Cup games Preston beat Portsmouth seven-one with Sammy Taylor getting a hat-trick, and Sheffield Wednesday five-one in a twice replayed third round F.A. Cup tie. The Arsenal tie was also a real thriller with North End forcing a replay after being three-one down at Deepdale, but Arsenal finally went through by two goals to one at Highbury on 19th February, 1957.

Extra midfield strength had been obtained with the acquisition of Frank O'Farrell from West Ham in November, and at one stage even a first Football League Championship since 1890 looked a possibility, but a little momentum was lost in the last month of the season and Manchester United, who were only a point ahead of North End at the end of March, finished six points in front with Spurs just managing to edge into second place on goal average. Tommy Thompson got twenty nine League and Cup goals, Tom Finney twenty eight and Sammy Taylor fifteen while in defence Fred Else and Joe Walton were ever presents and Willie Cunningham missed only one game.

Could North End improve on this excellent record in 1957/58? The answer was that they could, though the extra three points were not sufficient to take them to the Championship. It was the Club's misfortune that this was one of Wolves' best seasons and they triumphed by five points. North End's followers were left to rue the fact that in seven of the first twelve postwar seasons their tally of fifty seven points would have taken the Club to the top of the Division One table.

Though Derek Mayers and Alec Farrall had been signed from Everton during the close season, North End kicked off with the same line up as the one that had played in the latter part of 1956/57 and despite defeats at Nottingham Forest and Burnley in the first two games Preston were soon into top gear, winning seven home games in a row before dropping a point to the pre-Munich Manchester United in a game that sadly turned out to be the last at Deepdale for such great players as Roger Byrne, Duncan Edwards, Tommy Taylor and Bill Whelan, who got the goal in the one-one draw.

Early December saw Preston losing an unbeaten record to Wolves, for whom debutant Mick Lill scored in the second minute to help the Midland club to a 2-1 victory, but from that point North End's only other defeat at Deepdale was a three-one shock by Bolton in a third round F.A. Cup-tie. Either side of that, North End were unbeaten in ten successive League games, in the course of which they romped to the Club's second highest postwar win, eight-nil over Birmingham City at Deepdale on 1st February, 1954 with Sammy Taylor and Tommy Thompson both getting hat tricks and Tom Finney the other two. Tom was still playing mainly at centre forward with a few games on the wing when the need arose. Derek Mayers had by this time made his mark on the right wing, to give North End extra attacking possibilities and as the goals flowed freely, fans reflected on what a wonderful £25,000 buy Tommy Thompson had proved to be and on how long Tom Finney (by now nearly thirty six) could maintain his scintillating form. A penalty at Everton on the 8th March, enabled him to score his one hundred and fifty eighth League goal and so overtake the previous record held by Tom Roberts, the sharpshooter of the period immediately after the First World War.

Once again Thompson (thirty four), Finney (twenty six) and Taylor (fourteen) topped the scoring chart while Derek Mayers made a most useful contribution of twelve goals and in defence Else, Cunningham and Walton missed only two games between them. Sadly this excellent North End team was now just past its peak and had no major honour to show for all the attractive football played during the last few seasons.

It seemed right at the start of 1958/59 that there might be just enough momentum left to make this a season to remember after the near misses of the previous two. Seven points came from the first four games with a double over Everton and a home win over Arsenal. Happily Tommy Thompson showed little ill effect from his close season knee operation and Dennis Hatsell hit another purple patch to celebrate his return as leader of the attack.

Only two of the first twelve games were lost and at times North End looked potential champions. Two thrilling games, however, ended up the wrong way with four-three home defeats by Newcastle and Manchester United in the space of two months. Even so North End entered their Christmas programme with just as many points (twenty eight from twenty three games) as at the same stage a year earlier. Then, however, came a double defeat by Blackpool, and no sort of consistency was achieved after that.

The F.A. Cup brought a few moments of excitement with a four-two win in a replay against Derby County, a three-two win over potential giantkillers Bradford City and then a disappointing defeat by Bolton in a second replay after a weakened side had done very well to pull off a draw at Burnden Park. One of the reserves called up for that game was young goalkeeper Mick Lynne, who had the unusual distinction of playing both his first two first team games in F.A. Cup ties before making his League debut.

A little earlier another debutant goalkeeper had appeared with John Barton making his League bow in December aged sixteen years and eight months, North End's youngest ever custodian. Despite making such an early start John was destined to play only just over a hundred League games in a career that ended in 1972 with Blackburn.

North End's main problem was their shaky home record with only one win in their last eight games at Deepdale - and that was a good four-two win against Aston Villa which showed just how well the side could play.

Despite a final position in mid-table, the Club's away record of twenty points, was bettered by only four other teams in Division One. It was a sign of the times that of the consistent warriors who had given so many years' splendid service, only Willie Cunningham played in every game. Though the double was recorded against Tommy Docherty's new club, Arsenal, there was a feeling that had he still been at Deepdale a number of those seven single goal defeats might not have occurred.

Happily Gordon Milne, son of North End stalwart Jimmy Milne and born within a stone's throw of Deepdale, was steadily establishing himself as Docherty's successor, having first deputised for the Scot early in 1956/57. Though handicapped by trying to make his mark in League football at the same time as he was doing his National Service, Gordon had by 1959/60 become a midfield force to be reckoned with. David Sneddon, signed from Dundee in the previous April, was another of the new season's successes, taking over from Jimmy Baxter, who had moved back to Barnsley.

Jimmy's cousin Willie Cunningham was not quite such a regular member of North End's defence by this stage and it was perhaps to be regretted that there was no readymade young replacement coming through to challenge. As it was Willie's chief rival was Bob Wilson, who had been signed from Burscough ten years earlier and was now over thirty.

Yet once again North End looked as good as any team in the land in the first half of the season. The reputation for attractive football and exciting games was maintained on the opening day of the season with a four-four draw at Chelsea, when the young Jimmy Greaves gave North End defenders plenty to think about, as he did all opponents of that era. He got a hat trick, but the North End front line of Mayers, Thompson, Finney, Sneddon and Taylor seemed to be firing on all cylinders. It was now thirteen years since Tom Finney had signed as a professional for £7.10s.0d. weekly summer wage, and £10.0s.0d. during the season and his twenty year link with North End put him with a select band of six other players (Hull's Billy Bly, Stoke's Frank Bowyer and John McCue, Newport's Ray Wilcox, Liverpool's Billy Liddell and West Ham's Erbie Gregory) who also had been in the game for twenty years. All except McCue and Liddell were in fact in their last season, but for much of the time Finney looked as good as ever and there were people both in and out of Preston, who felt that he could still have been more effective than either of the current England wingers or even than Joe Baker who was having limited success as leader of the country's attack.

Occasionally gaps in the North End defence were exposed and in the space of three weeks in September and October five-one defeats were sustained at Tottenham and at Deepdale against Manchester City. Jim Smith, a young Scottish midfielder, had one spell at centre half in place of Joe Dunn, but if at times the defence had its problems there was value for money for fans who liked goals. Wolves were beaten four-three at Deepdale in late October to reverse the scoreline of that game at Molineux just three years earlier, and at this stage North End won seven games in a row, the best run since the 1950/51 promotion year.

A run of nine games without defeat ended in a most thrilling fashion at Stamford Bridge on the Saturday before Christmas, as North End went down five-four despite a hat trick by Tommy Thompson. Jimmy Greaves got all five of the home side's goals and from that moment North End's strong Championship challenge (they had been setting the pace with Spurs and West Ham up to that point) faded. They failed to win for eleven League games though an F.A. Cup run generated plenty of excitement.

Stoke and Bristol Rovers were beaten after replays, the latter

after a three-three draw at Eastville with Alfie Biggs (soon to join North End) scoring twice; Brighton were beaten two-one in the fifth round but then Aston Villa proved too much of a handful at Villa Park where a two-nil defeat ended Tom Finney's last hope of an F.A. Cup winners medal. He continued to sparkle in his last few League games, however, and his seventeen goals made him North End's top scorer at the end of the season. He failed to score in his four hundred and thirty third and final League game against Luton on the 30th April, 1960, despite tremendous encouragement from the spectators and help from his team mates.

Crowds had declined a little after any chance of F.A. Cup or Football League success had faded but over 27,000 came to Deepdale that day to see Tom's last game. The result a two-nil win for Preston had little significance, but the way both North End and Luton players were joined by the crowd in singing 'Auld Lang Syne' at the end of the game is a memory that lives on. The fact that Luton were already booked for relegation seemed insignificant too, as one felt that there is something in football that respects true greatness and transcends even local club loyalties. For the record the North End line-up for this last nostalgic game of the 'Peerless Plumber' was:- Else, Wilson, Walton, Fullam, Dunn, Smith, Finney, Milne, Alston, Sneddon, Taylor.

Chapter 7

Into the Third and Out Again

An era had ended with the retirement of Tom Finney and the summer of 1960 also saw the departures of seasoned defender Harry Mattinson, who had been with North End for twelve seasons. Alec Farrell went to Gillingham and Les Campbell to Blackpool and perhaps most surprising of all, Dennis Hatsell drifted out of the Football League. He went to Chelmsford and there were many who felt that at the age of thirty he could have helped North End through a period of transition, for he had certainly had his moments in scoring fifty four goals in one hundred and fifteen games.

One cause for optimism was that the young North End team had reached the final of the F.A. Youth Cup in 1959/60 before going down five-two to Chelsea and several of them such as defenders Tony Singleton and George Ross, forwards Peter Thompson, Alan Spavin and David Wilson were looked on as potential First Division material. The question at the start of the season was whether the team could hang on to First Division status for the next season or two while such promising talent gradually developed.

In the event the worst fears were fulfilled and in an endeavour to hold on to a First Division place young players had inevitably to be rushed into first team action. Well though the promising youngsters acquitted themselves, it was unfair for them to have to play in virtually every game in their first season - and in a struggling side. For North End struggled from the start. A home defeat by Newcastle followed by away defeats at Arsenal and Cardiff, left them pointless after three games and though three of the next four games were won, this was the only really successful spell all season.

The main problem was up front, for in addition to the retirement of Tom Finney, Tommy Thompson (by this time on the wrong side of thirty) and Sammy Taylor had both lost something of their edge and so at one foul swoop a trio that had made a habit of scoring around sixty goals between them in a

season had been largely lost. Alec Alston, who had come from Netherfield some years earlier, did his best whether playing on the wing or in the centre of the attack, and this five feet nine inches tall trier could not be expected to emulate the feats of a Finney or Wayman.

Up to October, however, North End were still keeping their heads above water with an average of almost a point a game. The first ever League Cup-tie against Football League newcomers Peterborough was won confidently enough four-one and four days later neighbours Blackburn Rovers were beaten two-nil at Deepdale by courtesy of two own goals from their central defender Matt Woods. Lack of consistent forward power was now putting extra pressure on the North End defence, however, and by this time neither Frank O'Farrell nor Joe Walton were commanding regular places. Suddenly a North End team whose high average age had been giving cause for concern, had an extremely youthful look and the one really experienced player who was playing regularly, Willie Cunningham, was not throwing off the effects of a knock as easily as he had done ten years earlier.

The win over Blackburn turned out to be the last in a League game for nearly four months as North End played fourteen games in a row without a win including six at one stage without scoring a single goal. Just about the only bright spots at this stage were provided by the two Cup competitions. In a lively third round League Cup-tie, Aston Villa forced a three-three draw at Deepdale in a game that saw Tommy Thompson scoring against his former club. Tommy's namesake Bobby Thomson (different spelling) was on the Villa side and by an odd coincidence each side also contained an O'Neill and a Wylie, North End having signed John Wylie on a free transfer from Huddersfield in 1958. Garbutt Richardson had come via a similar route and both did well at times in helping North End in their battle to survive.

The League Cup replay at Villa Park was lost three-one and it seemed that North End might be on their way to an F.A. Cup humiliation when Accrington forced a third round replay by dint of a one-one draw at Deepdale. The game at Peel Park was a different matter, however, as North End romped home four-nil, one of only two occasions when they scored as many as four goals in a game all season.

The second of these was against West Ham early in March and with ten games to go there was still hope of staying up as both Newcastle and Blackpool were also struggling. Sadly North End won only one more game and were three points short of safety at

the end, the death knell being sounded in a four-two defeat by Manchester United in the last home game, when Bobby Charlton got two of United's goals.

The fact that Alec Alston was leading scorer with just nine goals tells its own story, but there was no doubting the excitement that the speed of young Peter Thompson had generated in a number of home games and he had also netted seven goals. It was just possible that another Tom Finney was in the making. Perhaps there was, but he was destined to move to Liverpool before his talent had fully blossomed.

North End did, however, still have Peter in the line-up as they tackled another spell in Division Two in 1961/62. No fewer than seventeen players had been released from the previous season including such stalwarts as Joe Dunn, Tommy Thompson, Frank O'Farrell and three wingers in Sammy Taylor, Derek Mayers and Les Dagger. Just twenty four players were retained compared with thirty seven at the start of the previous season and another established first teamer, Fred Else, moved to Blackburn before the new season opened. To cap it all manager Cliff Britton, after over five years at the helm also left, taking over at Hull in succession to Bob Brocklebank. Cliff had come so near to leading the Club to a major honour and certainly the football played by his North End side at their best was the sort to thrill the fans. His successor was Jimmy Milne, who already had an excellent North End pedigree as a pre-war player and postwar trainer and coach.

There were two new signings in the side that kicked off the Second Division programme at Luton, namely midfielder Dave Barber from Barnsley and striker Alfie Biggs from Bristol Rovers. The line-up for the opening game certainly had a different look about it: Kelly, Cunningham, Wilson R, Barber, Singleton, Wylie, Alston, Wilson D, Biggs, Sneddon, Thompson.

Any hopes that there might again be an immediate return to Division One as in 1950/51 soon disappeared as six of the first eight games were lost. The League Cup provided some slight consolation with three-one wins over Aldershot and Swindon before a three-nil defeat in a replay at Rotherham, but with just fourteen points from the first twenty games, by the end of November Division Three was looking a distinct possibility.

Happily Alex Dawson had by this time been signed from Manchester United and had scored in his debut at Rotherham and he and Alfie Biggs provided the sort of target men up front that North End fans had long cried out for. Five wins in a row at the turn of the year gave a welcome boost and then came a most heartwarming F.A. Cup run.

Weymouth, whose player manager Frank O'Farrell was making a swift if brief return to Deepdale, put up a brave fight before going down two-nil, when the fourth round tie was eventually completed - the first attempt had been abandoned after eight minutes - then came the first F.A. Cup meeting with Liverpool for seventy years. It was certainly worth waiting for, as after two goalless draws North End went through one-nil in a second replay. This earned a sixth round tie with Manchester United and this too went to a replay before the dream ended two-one at Old Trafford with Bobby Charlton getting the second United goal. North End actually pulled back to two-one in the second half with a goal from Alan Spavin, who was just emerging as a first team regular.

After this the rest of the season was something of an anticlimax, but a final League position of tenth was much healthier than had seemed likely at one stage. Moreover, Alan Kelly in goal, George Ross in defence and Alan Spavin in midfield had emerged as first team players able to hold their own in League football and apart from twin strikers Dawson and Biggs the regular North End line-up had cost little beyond signing on fees and the average age was now early twenties.

The side looked even younger at the start of the 1962/63 season when John Donnelly was preferred at right back to Willie Cunningham, who just before the end of 1961/62 had passed Tom Finney's record of four hundred and nineteen games. Donnelly had been signed from Glasgow Celtic in the previous April and the other newcomer in the opening game was Stan Lapot, a teenage wing half from Smeaton Boys Club.

It was not the happiest of starts to the season for after a two-two draw at Deepdale against Norwich City, who had just won the League Cup, North End crashed seven-one at Plymouth and four-one at Walsall. It was not the most favourable time for the launching of a North End Supporters Club with Tom Finney as Chairman and Ken Horton as Secretary, but the latter, introduced with the aim of providing funds to counteract falling attendances, was in its way prophetic, bearing in mind the serious strain that the long spell of bad weather was to put on finances before the end of the season.

September began with three wins in four games but ended disastrously with a six-two home defeat by Cardiff, for whom Mel Charles netted twice. No-one took the League Cup very seriously in those days, but it did provide brief relief with wins over Queens Park Rangers and Northampton before a six-two crash at Villa Park, the second defeat there in the first three seasons of the competition. Alfie Biggs moved back to Bristol

Rovers in October and soon afterward Doug Holden, a lively winger, arrived from Bolton.

Results were in general unimpressive at this stage, and a four-one home defeat by Sunderland in a third round F.A. Cup-tie on 5th January, 1963 was not the best of starts to the New Year. Little did anyone realise at the time that this would be the last game North End were to play in seven weeks, because of one of the worst winters in the history of the game. Happily when a game was again possible at Deepdale, North End did manage to take two valuable points, Doug Holden getting the only goal in the match against Southampton.

There were still eighteen games to be packed in before the end of the season and a bad run could see North End having to fight a rearguard action against relegation.

The acquisition of 'Nobby' Lawton, who was equally happy in midfield or attack, just before the transfer deadline gave valuable extra strength for the coming struggle. 'Nobby' was from Manchester United from whom North End had made two previous postwar signings, Joe Walton, who had played over four hundred games before moving to ill-fated Accrington in 1960, and Alex Dawson, who was currently carrying most of the goalscoring responsibilities on his own broad shoulders.

After a disappointing spell of six games without a win there was a most welcome six-three trouncing of Swansea near the end of April, with Dawson getting a hat-trick and Lawton also finding the net. Willie Cunningham had been brought back into the team by this stage and he was still as good a thirty seven year old as any in the game and though results left something to be desired, relegation was avoided by a clear six points.

In what had been rather a disappointing season, lack of goalscoring support for Alex Dawson was the main problem, for well though Holden and Thompson played down the flanks, neither was a regular scorer, Alfie Biggs was not replaced as a dual striker alongside Dawson and Dennis Hatsell, who had looked so promising at one stage, had by this time been in non-league football for three seasons while still on North End's books. The end of the season also marked the departure of another player who had not quite fulfilled the high promise he had earlier shown, namely midfielder John O'Neill, who had won a Republic of Ireland cap, but who now at the age of twenty seven moved to Barrow.

Before the summer was over Peter Thompson had moved on to greater fame with Liverpool, and it was a sad thought that while North End were still unearthing some highly promising talent this was either not developing as fully as was initially hoped for or

was ultimately fulfilling itself with other clubs. In moving to Anfield, Peter was rejoining Gordon Milne, who had moved there three years earlier. Both were to play in every game in Liverpool's 1963/64 Championship side. Against all the odds, however, North End were also to have their moments of glory before the season was over.

It began quietly enough with a two-two draw at Orient on 24th August, 1963, but by the end of September it was clear that something could be 'on'. Only one of the first ten games had been lost and amongst several useful performances was a remarkable five-four win at Southampton. Alex Dawson was emerging at this stage as the Second Division's leading scorer and was getting good support from close-season signing Alec Ashworth, a one-time Everton junior, who had scored twenty five goals for Northampton in the previous season. Howard Kendall, who had made two appearances as a sixteen year old at the end of the previous season was now looking useful in the few games that he was given, and it was a pleasing sign of better times that a young player of high promise like him, did not have to be rushed.

League Cup aspirations came to an early end at Newcastle, but five wins in a row including one at Newcastle by way of revenge and an unbeaten spell of eleven games lifted North End into the promotion race. This unbeaten run came to a spectacular end in a five-one defeat at Swansea on the Saturday before Christmas, but two four-nil wins home and away over Cardiff, more than made up for this lapse.

North End were therefore in good form by the time the F.A. Cup-ties came round. A difficult third round tie at First Division Nottingham Forest was surmounted with a goalless draw there and a one-nil win in the replay. Bolton were also accounted for in a replay and then came a really tough struggle at Deepdale against Third Division Carlisle, who had former North End winger Sammy Taylor in their line-up, before North End went through one-nil.

There now followed a visit to Fourth Division giantkillers Oxford - and once again North End went through by a single goal margin, Brian Godfrey, signed from Scunthorpe in the previous October, getting the vital second goal in a two-one win. Now came an all Second Division clash with Swansea Town in the semi-final played on a quagmire at Villa Park. In the two League games the Welshmen had taken three points and had scored eight goals, but once again North End edged through, the winner in another two-one success coming from a long lob by Preston born Tony Singleton. What a time to score his first goal for his hometown club.

Four defeats in five away games including a four-nil hammering at Roker Park, the home of promotion rivals Sunderland put paid to promotion hopes. They ended five points behind second place Sunderland, no doubt reflecting that in eleven of the previous sixteen seasons, their tally of fifty six points would have sufficed to take them up. A decade later of course the final position of third would have meant promotion in any case.

Be that as it may North End were at Wembley again, just ten years after their last visit. What a triumph for Jimmy Milne, who had been there as a player in the thirty's and trainer in the fifty's. Now he was back as manager. On a sad note the Chairman Bert Ingham had died during the F.A. Cup run after almost twenty years as a North End Director. Alan Harrison was therefore Chairman of the Cup-finalists just a couple of months after taking up office.

A late change brought Howard Kendall, still not yet eighteen, into North End's Wembley line-up in place of former Kilmarnock man Ian Davidson and there were now no fewer than seven home-grown players in the side. They were of course the underdogs against the cultured First Division side West Ham, but this counted for little and in the opening exchanges there seemed few nerves as skipper Lawton and teenager Kendall (the youngest ever F.A. Cup finalist up to that time) dominated the early exchanges.

Incredibly they were ahead after just nine minutes, Kendall started the movement which saw the ball played to Dawson for the big striker to bring it down perfectly and hammer in a shot that Jim Standen could only push out. Doug Holden, who had already played in two F.A. Cup finals for Bolton, Coolly prodded the ball home.

Two minutes later Alec Ashworth dallied with the ball as Preston moved forward again and was robbed by Bobby Moore, who set up the attack from which John Sissons netted a brilliant equaliser. Unabashed North End kept moving forward. An Ashworth shot was charged down by Ken Brown with Standen struggling and then Kendall unleashed a fierce drive that looked promising until it hit Alex Dawson en route.

Alan Kelly hurt his hand turning a Hurst shot for a corner when a goal looked certain. It was Kendall to the fore again when after fine work by Holden his shot was deflected by Moore for a corner. David Wilson, who had quietly established himself over the past four seasons in the shirt worn with such distinction by Tom Finney placed the flag kick perfectly for Alex Dawson to head North End into a half time lead.

Could they maintain this wonderful exhibition of football in the traditional Scottish mould of the accurate twenty yard pass, backed by complete commitment throughout the team. Maybe they could have done had their opponents not had the shrewd tactical brain of Ron Greenwood behind them. He ordered close marking of Spavin and Lawton by Bovington and Boyce and with these threats nullified Bobby Moore now began to get more grip on Alec Ashworth.

In fact West Ham scored at a vital stage early in the second half, Ken Brown moving up for a header that Alan Kelly could only parry out and Geoff Hurst netted. Even so the North End goalkeeper got a hand to the ball as it hit the bar from Hurst's header, but could not prevent it crossing the line.

West Ham had more of the play after this, but North End still looked capable of snatching a winner when Wilson or Holden got moving. Kelly pulled off a tremendous save from Hurst and was hurt again in the process, but it looked like stalemate until in the second minute of injury time a Brabrook centre was headed home by Ron Boyce. There were so many might have beens, including at least two penalty appeals, but as Jimmy Milne said afterwards "We don't grumble. You can only do your best. I am pleased the lads put on a good show".

Yes, the pride was back in Preston again after this classic Final and one recalls the words of Willie Cunningham by now Club coach, when thanking the crowd of nearly twenty thousand that had turned out for his Benefit Match, "There are other clubs I might have served, but no club I would rather have served".

It was, however, back to routine Second Division business in 1964/65 and happily all the heroes of that F.A. Cup Final were available: Kelly, Ross, Smith, Lawton, Singleton, Kendall, Wilson, Ashworth, Dawson, Spavin and Holden. In addition Tony Coleman had been signed from Tranmere and Ernie Hannigan from Queen of the South and it was obvious that these players together with Brian Godfrey, who had scored a vital goal in the previous season's F.A. Cup run would be pressing hard for places. Rotherham were the visitors in the opening game, but unhappily Alex Dawson, scorer of thirty six League and Cup goals in 1963/64 was injured and this set a pattern. Though the first five games brought a win and three draws, no fewer than five of the F.A. Cup Final team were injured during this period, the others being Ashworth, Smith, Kendall and Kelly.

Heavy defeats were sustained, five-two at Bolton and five-one at Newcastle and though the injured players, apart from cartilage victim Alec Ashworth recovered, and Ian Davidson re-signed

and played well in his first game back against Swindon, it was clear that this was just not going to be North End's season. There was a disappointing League Cup defeat at Doncaster where Alec Jeffrey returning to the Football League ten years after suffering a broken leg, when on the edge of the England team, got the winner.

A shattering five-two home defeat by Manchester City on 7th November, 1964 did nothing for the equanimity of either fans or management, but a week later Alex Dawson netted a hat-trick of headers in a three-two win at Charlton, Howard Kendall got two of the goals in a three-two win over Coventry on Boxing Day, but two days later the return match was lost three-nil at Highfield Road. Hopes rose again with two wins and two draws in the next four games and a three-two win at non-league Barnet in a third round F.A. Cup-tie, but then on a muddy pitch Bolton won two-one at Deepdale in a fourth round tie with a late goal that should have been prevented. The Wanderers had taken a League point in similar circumstances a fortnight earlier. What a bogey team they were proving.

The last really bright spot in a very mixed season was a six-one win over Portsmouth in March, with another Alex Dawson hat-trick. Promotion was still possible if that kind of form could be maintained.

The next three games were lost, however, including a four-three thriller at Manchester City and the beginning of April brought further problems when Alan Kelly fractured a collarbone at Orient. A final League position of twelfth gives little indication of a season that had its share of attractive football with only two home defeats (by Plymouth and Manchester City) and a total of seventy six goals, ten more than second place Northampton. Fifty one of these had come from Alex Dawson and Brian Godfrey, who more than made up for the injury that kept Alec Ashworth out for most of the season. The old question again loomed of whether the defence could be tightened without impairing the goal output up front.

In fact the defensive record was improved in 1965/66 despite the fact that six goals were conceded on one occasion and five on four occasions. On the other hand despite an incredible nine-nil win over Cardiff in the last game, goals flowed less freely. Just to complete the list of anomalies, relegation was avoided by just four points despite the fact that North End came within an ace of reaching the F.A. Cup semi-final after another magnificent run.

Erratic, was the word to describe a season that began with several injury problems, Jim Smith breaking a collarbone and David Wilson injuring a leg. Three successive long journeys in

eight days to Portsmouth, Orient and Plymouth respectively, did not help though the game at Plymouth was won one-nil. A week later Argyle went down two-nil at Deepdale and shortly afterwards a notable hat-trick was completed when they lost the second round League Cup-tie on the same ground. Alec Ashworth, who was by this time seeking a transfer after recovering from injury got the goal that took North End through to the next round at Huddersfield, before a four-nil crash at Grimsby ended all hopes.

Meanwhile League results were going in fits and starts. An injury in a car crash put Alan Spavin out of the team for several weeks during which North End went down five-two at Southampton, but there were brighter moments such as Alex Dawson's opening goal in the three-one win at Cardiff, that took his tally to one hundred in one hundred and fifty eight League games since moving from Manchester United. This was to be the last Second Division win for three months in the midst of which Alex showed his versatility by taking over in goal after an injury to Alan Kelly and helping North End to a hard earned point.

Alan certainly seemed to be getting more than his share of injuries at this stage in his long career, and another unlucky player was former Blackpool man Bill Cranston, who had been signed in 1960 as a wing half, finally won a regular place at centre half in place of Tony Singleton and was then injured just as his career seemed to be finally taking off.

Even so North End were embarked on another F.A. Cup run to stir the blood. A three-two win at Charlton in the third round brought the third tie with Bolton in as many years. Again things were desperately close before a Brian Godfrey penalty took North End through in a replay.

This brought First Division Spurs to Deepdale in the fifth round for a repeat of a 1952/53 F.A. Cup-tie. North End had been high up in Division One in those days but had gone out in a replay. This time, however, they belied their Second Division status in beating a team that was estimated to have cost at least eight times as much. What's more North End fought back after an early Jimmy Greaves goal that would have broken the spirit of most teams. Alex Dawson headed a fine equaliser from George Ross's cross and then came a thrilling winner from Ernie Hannigan after an Alan Spavin shot had been pushed out.

Though there was now an exciting sixth round tie against Manchester United in prospect there was still a battle for Second Division survival to be won, and encouraged by the Cup success, North End were unbeaten in the three League games that followed the Spurs tie, chalking up the first League win of the

New Year at Bolton, who were somehow no longer a bogey team. The team was therefore in good heart for the game against United. A crowd of 37,876 saw Alex Dawson head North End into the lead against his former club, his fourth goal in four Cup games, and there was considerable doubt about David Herd's equaliser for he looked offside to most people when receiving George Best's through ball. Even so North End could well have scored several more goals and even though facing a replay they still did not surrender. At Old Trafford a Dennis Law goal was wiped out by a Tony Singleton header - his first goal since the 1964 semi-final - and only in the last few minutes did United get the two goals that settled the tie. 60,433 spectators went away testifying to the fine spirit of North End and a quality of football worthy of Division One.

A three-nil defeat at Wolverhampton three days later, followed by one of 5-2 at Charlton were evidence of reaction to the great F.A. Cup battles but with George Lyall - a new signing from Raith Rovers, joining the first team squad, there were no problems in staying clear of the relegation zone. George's arrival with a reputation as a schemer and scorer awakened a few memories of another signing from Raith in 1925, the legendary Alex James. This was an awesome precedent to follow, but though he played only twice before the end of the season he was to prove a most useful acquisition.

Certainly North End's success with signings from over the border was continuing and winger Ernie Hannigan, who had come from Queen of the South in 1964, ended his best season so far with a hat-trick in the last game and nineteen year old former apprentice Brian Greenhalgh netted two, with Nobby Lawton completing the score in a most remarkable nine-nil win over Cardiff, North End's biggest win since beating Stoke ten-nil in September 1889. The sad thing was that only 10,018, the lowest gate of the season, were present for this remarkable game. For the record the North End team was: Kelly, Ross, Smith, Lawton, Singleton, Kendall, Hannigan, Godfrey, Greenhalgh, Spavin, Lee. One wonders how long it will be before North End fans see another nine goal bonanza.

Even the memory of this game and the euphoria of England's World Cup win during the summer did not have a dramatic effect on the gate for the opening game of 1966/67, under thirteen thousand being present at Deepdale to see North End beat Northampton, who were just down from Division One, two-one with late goals from Frank Lee and Brian Godfrey (penalty).

The second round of the League Cup brought Fourth Division Crewe to Deepdale for the first time since they had been beaten

seven-one in a friendly in 1885. They were beaten two-nil to earn a 3rd Round tie with First Division Leeds. This went to a replay that brought in much needed revenue but also a three-nil defeat that was perhaps to be expected in view of North End's sad away record with only one point from the first ten games on opponents' grounds.

Fortunately home form had rarely been better with ten League wins in a row, the best ever start to a home programme, beating by one the nine wins in a row of 1892/93. All good things come to an end, but it was still a surprise when Carlisle, who have often been thought of as something of a defensive side, won three-two early in December with a fine display of attacking soccer, cricketer/footballer Chris Balderstone getting two of the goals.

A week later, however, North End broke the away hoodoo with a fine five-one win at Northampton, their best away win since a four-nil success at Cardiff on Boxing Day 1966. Alex Dawson got one of the goals at Northampton and he now seemed to be back to his usual form after a lean spell that had seen him fail to open his season's account until the game against Blackburn Rovers at the end of September.

After just six goals in their first ten away games, North End now proceeded to score nine in the next two, following that win at Northampton with another at Bury by a four-three margin. Paul Aimson got a hat-trick for the Shakers in a see-saw struggle, but with the score three-three and the seconds ticking away, George Ross got one of his rare goals for North End and Howard Kendall cleared off the line.

With eleven home wins by mid-January 1967, North End had already won four more than in the whole of the previous season and only two points separated them from the second promotion place. A disappointing home defeat by Aston Villa in a third round F.A. Cup-tie, however, upset the rhythm and a two-one defeat to front runners Coventry at Highfield Road in February, after North End had held the lead until the last few minutes, seemed to indicate that the ball was not going to run kindly in the final run-in.

There was also an overdraft to be cleared off and in quick succession David Wilson moved to Liverpool, Alex Dawson to Bury and Howard Kendall to Everton. Approximately £120,000 was raised, but three key players had gone. Wilson and Kendall had grown up in the Club, the former winning England under-23 caps and the latter making his mark as a seventeen year old in the 1964 F.A. Cup final. Alex 'Black Prince' Dawson perhaps was not as universally popular as David and Howard, but in six seasons since moving from Manchester United as a twenty one



PRESTON NORTH END 1960 YOUTH CUP FINAL TEAM

Back Row L/R: George Ross, Rodney Webb, Ged Baldwin, John Barton, John Hart, David Will.
 Front Row L/R: Jimmy Hume, David Wilson, Peter Thompson, Alan Spavin, Derek Birchall.



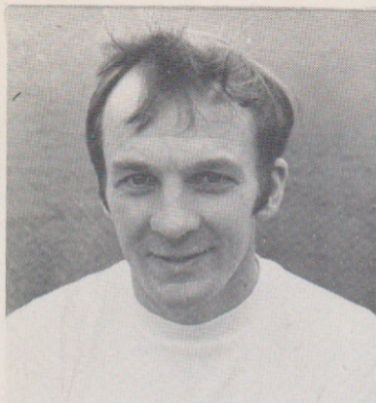
PRESTON NORTH END 1964 CUP FINAL TEAM

Preston North End's captain Nobby Lawton presents the team to Lord Harewood
From left to right: Alex Dawson, Tony Singleton, Alan Spavin, Alec Ashworth, George Ross
Doug Holden, Alan Kelly, Jim Smith, Howard Kendall, Dave Wilson.



A. KELLY

Goalkeeper - joined North End from Drumcondra in 1958. Made a record 447 appearances for the Club between February 1961 and September 1973. Has been trainer and assistant manager and in Centenary season was in charge of North End reserves.



A. SPAVIN

Midfield general, came to North End from school in Lancaster. Led Preston to promotion in 1970/71. Has spent all his playing career at Deepdale apart from a short spell with Washington Diplomats. In Centenary season was still actively involved with the Club as Youth Development Officer.



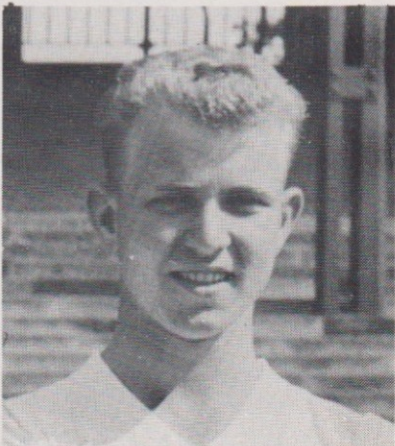
D. WILSON

Right winger. A product of the 1960 Youth team, spent his career at Deepdale except for a short spell with Liverpool.



G. ROSS

Born Inverness. Full back came to Preston straight from school. Made 389 appearances for North End between 1960 and 1973.



J. SMITH

Came to North End from Arbroath Lads F.C. in 1955. Made 300 League appearances as a half back in ten seasons with North End.

year old, he had scored one hundred and fourteen goals in one hundred and ninety seven games and time and again had looked clumsy when in possession and yet had been there to score vital goals. He had cost £20,000 and had moved to Bury for £15,000 and there is no disputing that he had given £5,000 worth of value.

With the overdraft cleared and a few pounds to spare, further Scottish assets were added to a North End squad that had begun the season with sixteen players from north of the Border, plus manager Jimmy Milne and reserve coach Willie Cunningham. Striker Jim Forrest, who had already been capped against Wales, was signed from Glasgow Rangers and midfielder Jim McNab from Sunderland, but in the few games before the end of the season it was impossible to judge how effective they would prove to be. Three draws in a row at the end, one of them at third place Carlisle, left North End in mid-table reflecting on a season that had rather trailed off and fans wondered whether skipper Nobby Lawton, who had missed the last part because of a second cartilage operation, would be the same driving force when he came back and whether there would be a return to form by Brian Godfrey, who for all his battling had netted only five goals in a full season after twenty five and seventeen respectively in the previous two.

In fact these questions were soon resolved, for within two months of the start of the 1967/68 season Lawton, who was barracked in the opening games by fans quickly forgetful of his great service over the previous five years, had moved to Brighton and Brian Godfrey had gone, together with Brian Greenhalgh, to Aston Villa. Two months later, winger Ernie Hannigan moved to Coventry.

This was North End's thirteenth ever season in Division Two and in quest of much needed good fortune there was a regular flow of new players to the Club. Archie Gemmill had come from St. Mirren during the summer; Derek Temple arrived from Everton in time to score twice on his debut at Plymouth in September; Ray Charnley made the short journey from Blackpool a month later and was soon scoring the consolation goal in a four-one defeat by his former club; two defenders Ken Knighton from Oldham and Graham Hawkins from Wolves were signed in November and January respectively, the latter being unfortunate enough to be injured on his debut.

George Ross was another injury victim, taking a bad knock in the game against Rotherham on Boxing Day, when a two goal lead was lost. Four days later Jim McNab suffered a similar fate in the return game and two months later long serving Jim Smith had to miss several games before making his three hundredth

appearance for the Club.

In the midst of all this it is perhaps not surprising that results suffered. Three successive draws in October and November were followed by six successive defeats to make the relegation bogey loom again. A heartening three-one F.A. Cup win at Queens Park Rangers brought much needed relief on the 27th January, 1968 with Archie Gammill getting a memorable third goal with a superb run and final explosive shot. There was some consolation for the three-one defeat at Tottenham in the fourth round, in that 47,088 were there to see it and that a Ray Charnley goal kept North End in the game at one-one until the second half.

Still the results were not coming in League games, however, and five games out of seven had just been lost when yet another signing was made with Willie Irvine coming from Burnley, just in time to beat the transfer deadline. He quickly signalled his arrival with a hat-trick in a three-one win over Huddersfield and suddenly North End were in the midst of an unbeaten run of eight games. Easter brought successive away wins, two-one at Derby thanks to a Ron Webster own goal and one-nil at Blackburn by courtesy of a Willie Irvine penalty.

Though he played only eleven games Willie's six goals made him second highest scorer (Derek Temple got eight) and the part he played in giving North End a final four point cushion above relegated Rotherham is difficult to over rate. The transitional nature of the season is further indicated by the fact that apart from Alan Kelly, who made fourty one appearances, only Jim McNab, Derek Temple, Jim Smith and John Ritchie (who had come from Port Vale near the end of the previous season) had played over thirty games.

The season also marked the end of Jimmy Milne's long spell as manager. He moved first to General Manager and then at the end of the season took on the less onerous but still vital role of chief scout, thereby continuing his service to the Club he had joined as a player in October 1932. Jimmy's successor was Bobby Seith, who had been a member of Burnley's 1960 First Division Championship team and who like Milne hailed from Dundee. He moved in as team manager at the turn of the year, finally taking over the full reins in May 1968.

Only forty three goals had been scored in 1967/68 and so Bobby's first priority seemed crystal clear as he looked forward to his first full season in charge. Yet incredibly five fewer goals were scored in 1968/69, but four more points were obtained and the scramble to avoid relegation was resolved.

No fewer than eighteen defensive clean sheets were kept and though North End only scored more than twice in a League

game, on one occasion (a four-one win over Birmingham in August) Willie Irvine emerged with twenty League and Cup goals out of North End's tally of forty five. Well though Willie, an established Northern Ireland international before he came to Deepdale, played, however, the commanding presence of new skipper Graham 'Harry' Hawkins at the heart of the defence was probably just as significant.

It was just a little disappointing that David Wilson was not quite the same player on his return from Liverpool and new signing Gerry Inghram a centre forward from Blackpool, did not achieve the sort of consistency hoped for in his first season at Deepdale despite an excellent debut when he laid on the matchwinner for Willie Irvine in a one-nil win at Bury.

By this time North End had gone out of the League Cup, three-one at Crystal Palace and then just as they seemed to be settling into a promising unbeaten run in League games they went down three-one to Norwich at Deepdale despite the boost of a goal in fifteen seconds by Willie Irvine, who at that stage was averaging a goal a game. Fairly regular one-nil wins punctuated by a number of surprisingly heavy defeats such as the ones at Sheffield United (four-nil) and at Bolton (four-one) kept the League position just above the danger mark up to the turn of the year. There were some gritty performances at this stage such as the goalless draw at Millwall with a side that was depleted from the start because of an injury to Willie Irvine that kept him out, then further handicaps when Alan Kelly took a bad knock and Jim McNab felt the onset of 'flu which slowed him down. Then came only the second win at Villa Park, when in the last twenty two minutes Ken Knighton got one of his rare goals.

Archie Gemmill was emerging as a rare little battler who popped up with the occasional valuable goal and it was sad to hear the unfair reception that he got from sections of the crowd, who did not appreciate his sterling qualities.

Once again an exciting, albeit short, F.A. Cup run gave the side a lift early in the New Year. On the 4th January, 1969 the first twenty thousand gate of the season at Deepdale, were rewarded by a fine three-nil third round win over First Division Nottingham Forest, Willie Irvine opening the score from a penalty and then getting a spectacular individual goal that matched one that Derek Temple had scored a little earlier. What a pity that Derek did not do this more often was a thought shared by many fans, as North End prepared for an attractive fourth round tie with a Chelsea side that was challenging near the top of Division One. The game at Deepdale ended goalless but could so easily have been won, and then when the replay was abandoned

following the failure of the Stamford Bridge floodlights, there was a reprieve for North End who were then losing two-nil. The game was played again a week later on the 3rd February and a Gerry Ingram goal after fifteen minutes had the home side struggling. A tremendous defensive display kept the Londoners at bay until injury time, when the referee allowed play to go on with George Ross lying injured, and the equaliser was scored by David Webb. In the dying seconds Chelsea scored again and the 36,522 crowd went home feeling that the Londoners had been extremely lucky to stay in the competition.

Because of several earlier postponements, fixtures came thick and fast during March and April and three points at Easter that included a one-nil win over Blackpool, dispelled any possible relegation danger. Six points were taken from the last four games without a goal being conceded and it seemed that with no defensive worries the main priority for the 1969/70 season would be extra strength up front to support Willie Irvine.

Sadly not only was this extra support for Willie not forthcoming, but Willie himself, troubled by a knee injury received in the Chelsea cup-tie, and consequent loss of edge, netted only five goals all season and he and Archie Gemmill were joint top scorers. All of which meant that the worst nightmares of North End fans became reality.

Despite the struggles of the previous two seasons, the team had always seemed to have something in hand to pull them clear before the threat of Division Three became really imminent.

Tradition had somehow seemed to count for something even in the sixties, for at that stage not only North End but Lancashire neighbours Burnley, Bolton, Blackburn and Blackpool had never played in Division Three; neither had Huddersfield and neither had Aston Villa.

There is, however, a first time for everything and the writing was really on the wall after the opening two games, in which North End had lost a League match at Charlton to a last minute goal and had gone out of the League Cup to Bury at Deepdale after dominating play. The ball was just not going to run North End's way and though the transfer in the close season, of Ken Knighton to Blackburn was the only major change from the previous year, the team just did not click except in isolated games, such as the one near the end of August in which Watford were beaten three-nil. Ricky Heppolette, who after several years waiting for first team duty was now gaining a regular place in midfield was amongst the scorers and he was to prove one of the few bright spots in an unhappy season.

This isolated victory was followed by five games in a row without a single goal. One of Archie Gemmill's rare headed goals brought a two-one win against Leicester and when Gerry Ingram got a matchwinner at Norwich a fortnight later to chalk up the seasons first away win, it seemed that things were settling down.

It was an unhappy December, with three defeats and two postponements that really made the situation serious. Even the F.A. Cup brought nothing more than a replay, with the strong Derby County side and a four-one defeat. In the depth of winter, long serving chairman Mr. Alan Harrison stepped down and was succeeded by Mr. T. C. Nicholson and the struggle went on. A real dog fight with fellow relegation strugglers Aston Villa ended one-one at Deepdale at the end of January. A thrilling game with Hull ended three-three with promising young Norman Lloyd amongst the scorers. Norman got two more against Charlton in mid-March in a heartening four-one success, but sadly North End were destined not to win another game.

Hope faded very quickly after that Charlton win and the death knell was sounded by neighbours Blackpool, who won three-nil at Deepdale in mid-April; Fred Pickering getting a hat-trick to take them up to Division One. When Watford drew at Norwich a few days later it became mathematically impossible for North End to stay up. There were just 7,882 to see the last home game against Cardiff and with all hope gone the two-one defeat by a club who had lost nine-nil on the same ground a few years earlier seemed most starkly appropriate. North End had won only two of their last twenty two games and were four points short of safety at the end. It was small consolation that another of the game's biggest names, Aston Villa, were joining them in a first ever season in Division Three.

It came as no surprise that for the new challenge of Division Three a new manager had been engaged. Alan Ball senior, a former Southport, Oldham and Rochdale player and Stoke City coach moved from Halifax where he had lifted the struggling little Yorkshire club out of Division Four. Though by this time his namesake son was more famous because of his 1966 World Cup feats, Alan senior was one of the most determined and knowledgeable figures in the game. He was also the most demanding and North End fans watched anxiously to see whether he would get more response from the players than Bobby Seith had done.

Bobby meanwhile moved in as manager of Hearts early in the new season, while at Deepdale one of the game's most respected names, Peter Doherty, the former Manchester City, Derby and Northern Ireland inside forward, was appointed assistant

manager in October 1970.

By this time the team was settling down in Division Three after a unspectacular beginning. One of those remarkable coincidences that seem often to attend the compilation of fixture lists whether done by computer or human hand, brought Alan Ball's former club to Deepdale for the opening game. There were no new signings on view in the North End line-up, but young winger David Hughes was given an early opportunity to establish himself. The situation was not helped by an injury to George Lyall and the game ended one-one. For the record North End's line-up for this first ever Third Division game was: Kelly, Ross, McNab, Spark, Hawkins, Heppollette, Wilson, Lyall, (Ingram), Irvine, Gemmill, Hughes.

A Willie Irvine goal at Stockport in midweek earned a place in the second round of the League Cup, but then came a three-one defeat at Torquay on the following Saturday and the disappointment of North End fans was reflected in the gate of under eight thousand for the Bristol Rovers game a week later. Results now began to happen, however, as Gerry Ingram hit a purple patch with ten goals in six games including a hat-trick against Reading and two in a League Cup win at Torquay that took quick revenge for the League defeat.

It was rather like old times to play before 26,000 at Villa Park in September, but this game was lost as was the third round League Cup-tie at the Hawthorns a few miles away, when Asa Hartford got the West Bromwich winner after North End had battled well. The return game at Halifax in October was also lost, but then came a run of fifteen games without defeat that lifted gates into five figures again and raised promotion hopes.

Maybe Brian Clough helped indirectly in this by his determination to sign Archie Gemmill, for soon after the little Scot had gone to Derby for £50,000, Bobby Ham, who had played for both Bradford clubs, was signed for a fraction of that fee. He netted in both his first two games against Plymouth and Brighton and soon his skill on the ball combined with a determination and finishing power was drawing comparisons from older North End fans with George Mutch from pre-war days and Tommy Thompson from more recent times.

There was some disappointment in an F.A. Cup defeat at Chester in a first round replay (the first time North End had been forced to play so early in the competition) and also in the one-nil defeat at lowly Gillingham in February, that ended the unbeaten run, but in general the team showed wonderful consistency in a season when grit and determination meant at least as much as skill and vision. The team now had a settled look with Clive

'Chippy' Clark, who had come from Q.P.R. in the previous January, taking over the left wing role and the former junior Alex Spark maturing in midfield.

John Bird, a centre back, was signed from Doncaster just before the transfer deadline to give extra power in defence and a total of just three goals was conceded in the seven games in which he played. One of them was the top-of-table battle with Aston Villa that drew 22,616 to Deepdale (compared with 14,182 for the Second Division relegation battle in the previous season) and though home fans were disappointed at the time, a goalless draw ended Villa's hopes of going up. A wonderful goal headed in by Ricky Heppolette at Fulham a week later earned both points and made promotion absolutely certain, despite the fact that Alan Ball's former club Halifax, had taken three points from the two encounters with North End, it was they who ended up in third place while North End pipped Fulham for the Championship. A remarkable 28,244 gate turned out for the final home game against Rotherham, that was really a lap of honour to celebrate promotion and all Preston walked tall on that Tuesday evening in May as Rotherham were beaten three-nil with 'player of the year' Alan Spavin getting two of the goals, one of which was a free kick when North End formed the 'Ball Wall' in front of the defenders.

The seventies had begun disastrously, but what a difference a season had made. There were, however, to be more shocks before the decade was over.

Chapter 8

The Yo-Yo Seventies

After a fairly quiet close season in which the one major signing brought much travelled striker Hugh McIlmoyle to Deepdale, North End opened their Second Division programme at Carlisle on the 14th August, 1971. Again the long arm of coincidence was at work for the thirty one year old striker, who had played for Leicester in the 1961 F.A. Cup final and had since then scored over one hundred and fifty League goals, found himself kicking off on a ground where he had two separate spells in the sixties, though North End had actually secured his transfer from Middlesbrough.

He didn't manage to celebrate with a goal, but North End brought back a valuable point from a goalless draw. After a League Cup win at Barrow in midweek, McIlmoyle introduced himself to home fans with both goals in a two-nil win over Fulham on the following Saturday and it seemed to the 16,425 present that he might well be the man to give support to Gerry Ingram.

Gerry was out of the team at this stage and small wiry Alan Tarbuck was signed from Chester in September. Alan made a quiet start, but then Gerry came back into the side and scored five goals in four games and the competition for places was on. A useful League Cup run was also developing with wins over Tranmere and Watford (after a replay). After being drawn away in the first three rounds, there were hopes of a change of luck, but this just didn't happen, though the tie at Tottenham did look a potential money-spinner. In fact it turned out to be something more than that for a George Lyall goal earned a draw.

This brought 27,239 to Deepdale for the replay, but alas the dream of a possible visit to Wembley faded when goals by Martin Chivers and Steve Perryman took Spurs through two-one, but the second only came seven minutes from the end of extra-time.

By this time Manchester born former apprentice John McMahon had established himself on the right flank of the defence and he was ultimately to be voted 'Player of the Year'. It

seemed that the blend of youth and experience might be capable of moulding itself into a promotion team in due course, when an unbeaten run of eight games culminated in a four-nil hammering of Millwall in mid-December, but the dream faded after another brief but glorious F.A. Cup experience.

A four-two win over Bristol City, with Clive Clark netting twice brought Manchester United to Deepdale in round four, but a broken leg ruled him out of this vital tie and new signing Neil Young from Manchester City was also hors de combat and after a great struggle, United went through with two Alan Gowling goals, the second coming just before the end. Most of the 37,052 gate went away echoing manager Alan Ball's words to the effect that North End deserved at least a goalless draw.

The rest of the season was anti-climactic and in fact only two League games were won after the turn of the year including a one-off heartwarming four-nil win over former First Division opponents Portsmouth.

Both defender John Ritchie and striker Gerry Ingram moved to Bradford City in March, and though Alan Tarbuck enjoyed a spell of five goals in seven games around this time, there were just not enough goals being scored to take the pressure off the defence in which the stalwart John Bird was an ever present in his first full season.

Alan Kelly joined the select band of North End players who had made four hundred appearances for the Club, in the game at Hull in February and in one of the few games that he missed all season, the young Scot, Jim Blyth made his debut. In the same game another young Scot, whose name was to become a household word in Preston, made a quiet debut. This was nineteen year old Alex Bruce, who had been signed three years earlier on the recommendation of scout Jimmy Scott and was currently leading scorer in the reserve side.

Though the final game of the season (against Swindon) was drawn, nine of the last eleven had been lost and the final position of eighteenth (four points above relegated Charlton) underlined just how fortunate it was that North End had enjoyed that unbeaten run just before Christmas.

Was this North End side good enough to consolidate their Second Division place? This was a question on the lips of fans when it was seen that no spectacular new signings were on show at the beginning of 1972/73.

Alan Lamb and Gary Williams, two of the Club's young players, had an early opportunity to establish themselves when chosen for the opening League game against newly promoted Aston Villa; so did defender Dave Connor, who had been signed

with Neil Young from Manchester City in the previous January.

There was little joy at Deepdale that day, however, as Willie Anderson netted the only goal of the game to give Villa both points. Worse was to follow with a mid-week League Cup defeat at Workington and another one-nil reverse at Luton on the following Saturday. This time Peter Anderson got the winner and this Scottish name was certainly not bringing North End any comfort as they reflected upon three defeats in three games and no goals to show for their efforts.

The signing of Roger Davies on loan from Derby County looked a promising move, but after two poor games he was allowed to return to the Baseball Ground. By this time a Neil Young goal had brought North End a point against Queens Park Rangers. September, however, brought an upturn in fortune with three wins in a row and an unbeaten run of eight games. In the course of this run Alex Bruce was becoming a regular substitute and it was after going on in place of Alan Tarbuck at Orient on the 3rd November, that he netted his first League goal when North End won two-one. In the same game, busy little Alan Spavin played his four hundredth game - just how many thousands of miles he had covered in the cause of North End is anyone's guess.

On the subject of appearances, Alan Kelly passed Willie Cunningham's tally when playing his four hundred and forty fourth game against Oxford in an otherwise undistinguished game which was lost one-nil on Easter Tuesday. Soon he would set up an all-time North End record, quite apart from his eminent service for the Republic of Ireland. By this time he was being troubled intermittently by injuries, for his bravery brought a fair share of knocks, but he did much to keep North End in Division Two by both his own efforts and his encouragement of his defence.

In fact at one stage it looked as though he could be inspiring them towards Division One. After a four-nil win over Brighton on 25th November 1972 North End were in fourth place and still in with a shout, when the team ran out at Carlisle on Boxing Day. As has been underlined more recently, North End teams have never had much luck against Carlisle and on this occasion they crashed six-one. Alex Bruce got the consolation goal and his regular goalscoring was just about the only bright spot in a disastrous second half of the season.

A goalless draw at Grimsby in the third round F.A. Cup-tie was followed by a humbling one-nil defeat by the Mariners at Deepdale. Soon afterwards came a six-two hammering at Hull and when in the very next game Portsmouth (who at the time

were below North End in the table) romped home five-nil at Deepdale, the Board parted company with Alan Ball, despite the fact that his contract had still two and a half years to run.

Frank Lord was given temporary charge of the team and no permanent appointment was made before the end of the season and fans wondered just what new era was dawning as they saw players departing (long-serving George Ross to Southport and striker Alan Tarbuck to Shrewsbury) and no obvious replacements coming in.

On the otherhand, two young defenders Eric Snookes and Stuart Baxter looked distinctly useful when coming into the side near the end of the season, while up front Mel Holden scored at Millwall on his second appearance. Fortunately the occasional point was being picked up and an Easter Saturday win over Nottingham Forest (incredibly the first since the turn of the year) paved the way for survival. A defeat at Bristol City's Ashton Gate on Easter Monday and another by Oxford at Deepdale twenty four hours later, caused brief heart flutters when it was realised that a home defeat by Burnley in the final game could land North End back in Division Three, if Huddersfield won their last game against Portsmouth.

Huddersfield did manage to win, but after an Alex Bruce first half goal North End held on to a point though Colin Waldron's equaliser for Burnley made it a nailbiting finish to a most mixed season. The Turf Moor lads were on their way up to Division One as champions and this did help the gate for this last game with 21,550 present.

There were already rumours in the crowd of who the North End manager would be, but few had forecast the announcement four days later of Bobby Charlton's appointment as manager. His record as a player was such, that allied to his likeable, quiet personality there was no more respected figure in the game. Was he the man to lead North End back to former glories? If they could approach the record of Manchester United during Bobby's time at Old Trafford as a player, then great days were ahead.

The United link was strengthened by the appointment of former goalkeeper Jack Crompton as Bobby's assistant and soon two former playing colleagues moved to Deepdale, defender Francis Burns, who had been with Southampton for the past season, and from Middlesbrough inimitable 'Nobby' Stiles, one of the heroes of England's 1966 World Cup win.

Meanwhile there were Board changes and Mr. Alan Jones had taken over as Chairman from Mr. T. C. Nicholson. Again the opening fixture on the 25th August, 1973 brought Aston Villa into opposition, this time at Villa Park where North End had won

only nine of the forty eight League games played there and again they lost. A draw at Bolton (just up from Division Three) in the League Cup raised hopes, but Wanderers won the replay at Deepdale after a tense struggle that went into extra time before Freddie Lee netted twice.

A mid-week game against Millwall a week later raised hopes for, as Bobby Charlton wrote in his programme notes, "North End played very well", and Francis Burns opened his account from midfield. Four days later another win seemed to be on the way when a Neil Young goal opened the scoring against Bristol City. Then, however, the injury jinx struck with just a few minutes to go. Alan Kelly, who had just overtaken Peter McBride's long standing record of four hundred and forty three games early in the century, was carried off with an injured shoulder and City snatched an equaliser.

Sadly, despite all his efforts Alan never regained full match fitness and this loyal North Ender had to hang up his boots after playing in the first team for fourteen seasons. Not only North End but Eire had lost a most brave and reliable keeper, his international career having begun with Drumcondra seventeen years earlier. After a record forty seven games he was still first choice for his country. Happily his North End service has been maintained behind the scenes in a variety of roles including that of assistant manager.

Peter McBride's last game had coincided with North End's relegation of 1912. Ironically history was to repeat itself. John Brown (who was to be Wigan's custodian in their first few seasons in the Football League) took over in goal and did well, beating off the challenge of Ron Healey signed on loan from Manchester City in December and who played seven consecutive games before Brown regained the position which he then held until the end of the season. Brown's first game of the season in fact, coincided with a two-nil win at West Bromwich and a fortnight later the double was completed. Things looked good at this stage, but then came a two-one defeat at Notts County and a serious injury to Nobby Stiles whose encouragement and example had done so much to help North End gain thirteen points from the previous eight games. A five-one thrashing at Millwall followed and the problems mounted.

As long as Alex Bruce kept scoring goals, it seemed there was enough steel in the defence to keep the team afloat and there was always the hope that Neil Young or Mel Holden, who looked good at times, might achieve some sort of consistency. Alas it was not to be. Results steadily declined and Carlisle for the second season in succession, made it an unhappy Boxing Day, this time

winning at Deepdale with a Ray Train goal. Again for the second season, no progress was made in either Cup competition and the third round F.A. Cup defeat at Fulham was followed by three successive League games without a goal that - plunged North End into the danger zone.

At this point Alex Bruce moved to Newcastle and it was now a question of whether Ray Treacy who had arrived from Charlton a month earlier, or Mike Elwiss who linked up from Doncaster soon afterwards, could fill the gap.

Elwiss made a promising start with two first half goals on his debut at Carlisle, but the bogey there was still not laid, for the home side came back to snatch a point with two second half goals. Five successive defeats followed, and fans wondered whether Easter could again provide a resurrection of North End's rapidly fading hopes. Both the Good Friday and Easter Saturday games were at Deepdale, but Sheffield Wednesday snatched a goalless draw and the gate dropped to 7,707 for the following day, when Oxford achieved a similar result.

A two-nil win at Bolton kept alive mathematical chances of survival and 16,177 flocked to Deepdale for the last match against Middlesbrough in the hope of a miracle. In fact Mike Elwiss scored twice in the first half, but Boro' who were already certain of promotion romped home four-two. To add to North End's problems one point was deducted from their record, for playing an unregistered player in the game at Oxford, but as they were three points adrift at the end of the season with an inferior goal average to Sheffield Wednesday, this deduction was not vital. It just added to the feeling of demoralisation as Bobby Charlton looked towards his second season at the helm in the uncertain water of Division Three.

Hopes that there would be an immediate return to Division Two, just as had happened five years earlier, were not raised by news of stouthearted defender Graham Hawkin's move to Blackburn during the summer. In just over six seasons, he had played in two hundred and fifty League and Cup games and had together with John Bird formed one of the most reliable central defensive partnerships to have represented North End. David Sadler, who had filled a number of different roles since moving from Manchester United in the previous November was, however, available and when it was announced that Bobby Charlton, who was by this time nearly thirty seven, was to play again, the prospects of four former Manchester United men in the North End line-up (Burns, Sadler, Stiles and Charlton) seemed to many a fascinating prospect.

The 1974/75 season certainly opened far more brightly than its

immediate predecessors had done. There were 11,633 (a vast improvement on most Third Division gates) present to see Tony Morley get the matchwinner in the opening game against Plymouth. Mel Holden followed suit a few days later in the League Cup-tie against Rochdale and then after a narrow defeat at Watford came the moment everyone was waiting for - the first Bobby Charlton goal in the three-two win over Walsall. Less than a fortnight later he netted again in a League Cup win over Sunderland and it was rather disappointing that only just over thirteen thousand were present for this battle between two former First Division giants.

By the end of September, North End were in first place and going well. Charlton banged home a penalty in a five-two hammering of Bournemouth, but then came four games without a win including a League Cup defeat at Chester. A fine four-nil win at Brian Clough's Brighton revived hopes, but these outstanding performances became more rare as the season wore on. Roy Tunks made the goalkeeping position his own after moving from Rotherham, but after four defeats in a row by Halifax, Gillingham, Southend and Tranmere (where Stephen Doyle made his debut aged sixteen years five months) in November the team were only briefly in the top three again. F.A. Cup wins were chalked up against non-league Blyth Spartans and Bishop Auckland, but then Carlisle struck again as the Cumbrians, who were struggling in Division One by this time, came to Deepdale and despite being outplayed grabbed a win with a Joe Laidlaw goal. This game attracted the highest gate of the season, 18,682, many hoping in vain to see the bogey laid.

Unlike some recent seasons things did not immediately fall apart after the F.A. Cup exit and after a flourish of six wins in eight games during January and February, North End were back in second place for six days.

By this time, however, David Sadler had suffered a severe knee injury in a game at Swindon and from the end of February onwards only one of the last fourteen games was won. Bobby Charlton did not miss a game until the end of March and by that time Nobby Stiles was running out of steam too. Maybe if both had been a few years younger the extra six or seven points needed in the final run-in would have been obtained. As things were, the final position of seventh was rather disappointing after the promise shown earlier. Both Tony Morley and Mel Holden, who netted twenty three League and Cup goals, had emerged as outstanding young strikers.

His many fans were sorry to learn of Mel's move to Sunderland at the end of the season. Tragically this brave young striker had

only three more years left in the game, before being struck down by what was to prove a fatal illness.

Though they did not always gain the maximum benefits from their talents, North End could take pride in the fact that promising young players were still coming through from the junior ranks and in the last three games of the season, seventeen year old Mark Lawrenson took over the number two shirt that had been filled for the past few years by another North End discovery John McMahon, who was another victim of the injury jinx that was still striking so regularly.

Good performances in the usual spate of pre-season friendlies saw Alan Lamb back in midfield for the opening of the 1975/76 season and Ray Treacy staking a strong claim for one of the striking positions that he had not quite made his own since coming from Swindon in December 1973, while Gary Williams was looking like joining the select band of outstanding fullbacks (one thinks of Ray Wilson, Terry Cooper and Roger Bryne) who had started life as wingers.

Treacy got both goals in the opening game against Colchester and followed this up with one of the two goals that enabled North End to take a two goal lead in the first leg of the attractive League Cup-tie with Second Division neighbours Blackburn. The attendance of 11,503 was rather disappointing and it was even more so when this proved to be the highest of the season at Deepdale.

The defence held out in the second leg at Ewood Park to take North End through, but by this time a bombshell had exploded with the resignation of Bobby Charlton after a difference with the Board, over the transfer of John Bird to Newcastle in a part-exchange deal that brought Alex Bruce back to Deepdale. Nobby Stiles first resigned in support of his former Manchester United colleague, but within days was back as chief coach when Harry Catterick, who had done well both as player and manager with Everton and had experience of Third Division management with Rochdale, was appointed manager. Could he in his mid-fifties lift North End back on at least the first stage towards a return to Division One?

Despite a second round League Cup defeat at Hull, results were quite good over the next couple of months. Stuart Baxter, who might have been thought of as a possible replacement for John Bird at the heart of the defence, moved to Dundee United, but his young brother Mick held down the position for a time, lost it to David Sadler and then came back at the end of the season.

In general there were few real defensive problems and Alex

Bruce found the net in his first full game on his return. At this stage Ray Treacy was averaging a goal a game and promotion looked a distinct possibility. Alan Lamb broke his leg at Southend and Jimmy Brown a young Scot who had made his Aston Villa debut at the age of fifteen, came on loan to fill the gap created in midfield and was later signed in November. However, there came a lean spell of five League games out of six in which North End failed to score. In the midst of this run the unthinkable happened when the Club that had appeared in seven F.A. Cup finals and had never lost a Cup game with a non-League club, lost to Scarborough in the second round, albeit after a thrilling game in which two goals from young striker John Smith gave North End a half-time lead, before they finally went down three-two on an icy pitch.

By this time North End had slipped to mid-table and at this point Tony Morley, a devastating little winger on his day, was transferred to Burnley, after turning down a move to Arsenal. Francis Burns was injured and missed the rest of the season and it was just as well that the regular goalscoring of Alex Bruce and Mike Elwiss kept up an average of slightly more than a point a game. Five goals were netted against Southend and four each against Sheffield Wednesday and Gillingham.

Had away form been better North End might still have figured in the promotion race, for their tally of home points was the equal of Third Division champions Hereford. The final position of eighth was one above the previous season, despite the fact that one point fewer had been obtained. What's more 1976/77 was to be a similar kind of season.

There was relatively little transfer activity around this time, the new name in the opening line-up being striker Barrie Mitchell, a former Tranmere player from Aberdeen, while Danny Cameron who had come from Sheffield Wednesday in the previous April, was given the chance to establish himself at full back. In fact neither kept a regular first team place at this stage, though later Cameron was to do so.

None of the first four League games was won and a League Cup defeat by Bury did nothing for the equanimity of North End fans. An Alex Bruce hat-trick, however, in a four-nil win over Port Vale brightened the scene a little and he got two more in a six-two hammering of Peterborough, the highest score since May 1966.

Things were looking up by the time the F.A. Cup-ties came round and North End actually won at Anfield, though it was against Crewe in a second replay of a first round tie. Defeat in the second round at Halifax was a disappointment, but League



PRESTON NORTH END THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONS 1970/71

Back Row L/R: D. Wilson, G. Ross, J. McMahon, R. Heppollette, N. Lloyd.

Centre Row L/R: A. Cox (Coach), G. Hawkins, J. Bird, D. Hughes,

G. Stewart, A. Spark, J. McNab, H. Hubbick (Trainer).

Front Row L/R: B. Patrick, G. Ingram, B. Ham, A. Ball (Manager), C. Clark,

A. Spavin, G. Lyall. Absent: A. Kelly.



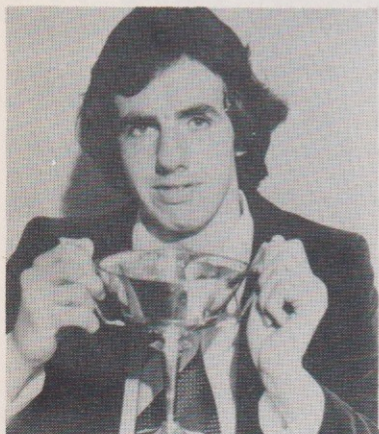
A. BRUCE

Born Dundee. Came to North End as an apprentice in 1968. In the final home game of Centenary season Alex scored his 150th League goal in a distinguished career as a prolific goalscoring forward.



M. ROBINSON

Lived in Blackpool, came to North End from school. Roving centre forward in the 'old fashioned' mould. Helped Preston to promotion in 1978/79, now with Brighton after a short spell at Manchester City.



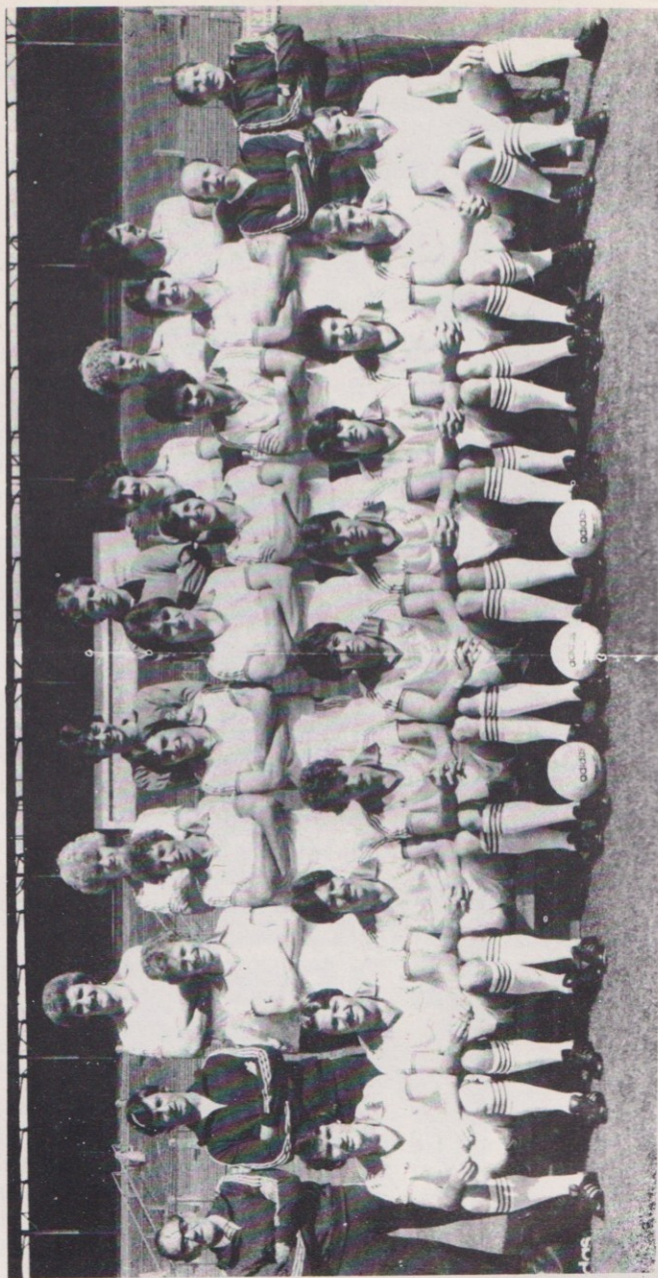
M. LAWRENSON

Pictured with the Tom Finney player of the year trophy 1976/77. Central defender progressed through North End's junior ranks. Transferred to Brighton, is now a firm favourite with the Liverpool fans.



M. ELWISS

Strong bustling forward signed from Doncaster, helped North End to promotion in 1978/79 now with Crystal Palace.



PRESTON NORTH END PLAYERS AND STAFF, 1978/79

Back Row L/R: M. Baxter, D. Pennell, J. Kilner, R. Tunks, S. Haselgrave, H. Wilson, J. McMahon,
 Centre Row L/R: G. Warr (Kit Manager), A. Kelly (Asst Team Manager), A. Bruce, G. Cross, M. Robinson,
 S. Uzelac, A. Byrom, A. McAteer, J. Bell, N. Stiles (Team Manager), H. Hubbiek (Trainer).
 Front Row L/R: F. Burns, J. Smith, D. Cameron, R. Thomson, S. Doyle, I. Cochrane,
 G. Coleman, I. Rothwell, G. Cortess, A. Spavin.



PRESTON NORTH END CENTENARY SEASON 1981/1982

Back Row L/R: Geoff Nulty (Asst. Manager), John Anderson, Steve Elliott, Willie Naughton, Peter Litchfield, Tommy Booth, Martin Hodge, Andy McAteer, Don O'Riordan, Gordon Lee (Manager), Front Row L/R: Graham Houston, Mark Walsh, Simon Westwell, Stephen Doyle, A. Jones (Chairman),

John Kelly, Graham Bell, Alex Bruce, Gary Buckley.

points continued to be gathered and an unbeaten run of ten games saw the team in third place by the turn of the year. What's more, eight defensive clean sheets had been kept in this ten game run and it is interesting to recall that a little earlier the young Tony Godden had been loaned by West Bromwich Albion but had not been able to displace Roy Tunks.

Sadly, it was to be defensive lapses that lost the game against Chester in February and after this four-three home defeat, North End did not regain their position in the top three.

Four defeats in a row without a single goal being scored finally scuppered promotion hopes by mid April and after this, home gates fell below the five thousand mark. To their credit the team produced a good finish to the season and a debut goal by John (Ian) Cochrane a few days after his eighteenth birthday, earned the points at Shrewsbury in the last game to ensure a final position of sixth, just five points short of promotion.

The extent to which Mike Elwiss and Alex Bruce monopolised the goalscoring may be gauged from the fact that while they got forty six goals between them, the next highest tally of League and Cup goals was John Smith's four.

The close season in 1977 saw a flurry of transfer activity between North End and Brighton. First, highly promising central defender and Eire international Mark Lawrenson moved to the Goldstone ground and the transfer fee received ensured that the financial situation at Deepdale was stabilised and Mark had taken his second step to the top of the football ladder. This move in June, was quickly followed by Garry Williams moving south in exchange for full back Harry Wilson and central defender Graham Cross, plus a fee. Cross who was one of the last remaining cricketer/footballers had previously given Leicester City sterling service playing four hundred and ninety five League games in fifteen seasons and was to play a very important part in North End's success. Steve Uzelac had already been signed from Doncaster and with the defence strengthened the big question seemed to be whether this would provide the extra backing for sharpshooters Elwiss and Bruce.

By the end of September, however, the season seemed to be in tatters. Though Port Vale had finally been put out of the League Cup in a second replay at Stockport and a replay had been forced by dint of a goalless draw with Walsall at Fellows Park, the Midlands snatched an extra time one-nil win at Deepdale. Worse still, the Club was now nineteenth in Division Three after failing to score in the first eight games. What a start for Nobby Stiles, who by this time had taken over as manager after Harry Catterick had resigned after nearly two years at the helm.

Alan Kelly meanwhile, had taken over Nobby's former job of assistant manager and to their credit the new management team gradually fashioned a winning side. Sean Haslegrave was signed from Nottingham Forrest and his first two games coincided with two home wins in the space of four days that raised everyone's spirits. He was to be an ever-present in midfield for the rest of the season and as the team moved up the table it was interesting to see that great club man Alan Spavin coming on as substitute on four occasions and for a full game in the one-one draw with Bury at Easter, his first games for nearly four years. He had been with Washington Diplomats in the meantime and at thirty six was still capable of controlling midfield. This was to be his swansong as a first teamer, but the start of a new period of service as Youth Development Officer for the Club which he has served so loyally.

A second round F.A. Cup defeat by Wrexham at Deepdale was quickly forgotten as North End moved into the New Year in fifth place in the table. They did not get into the top three until the beginning of March, but when they did so, it was with a bang as Alex Bruce got all four goals at Deepdale (two of them from the penalty spot) in a runaway win over Colchester on 28th February, 1978 and this was followed by wins against Bradford City and Swindon. What is even more important, they were not again out of the top three before the end of the season.

Vital games at the beginning of April saw promotion rivals Walsall beaten at Deepdale and a point snatched from Wrexham at the Racecourse Ground. Defeats by Sheffield Wednesday and Rotherham put the situation in jeopardy, and North End kicked off on 29th April, 1978 for the last game against Shrewsbury level on points with Peterborough, who had a game in hand as they tussled for the third promotion place. Things seemed to be going badly, when the 16,078 at Deepdale saw North End two-one down at half-time. Alex Bruce levelled the scores, but the winner would not come. Fortunately Peterborough had lost a four-three thriller at Chester, which left them needing a win at Wrexham to gain promotion and pip North End on the post. Wrexham were already assured of promotion, but the game was fiercely contested and ended goalless, thanks to a wonderful double save by Dai Davis in the last few minutes. North End were up on goal average. Only thirty eight goals had been conceded and so those extra defensive signings at the beginning of the season had certainly paid off.

Only eighteen players had been used in this promotion drive, Roy Tunks and Mike Elwiss playing in every game and Alex Bruce missing only one. The two ace goalscorers had done the Club proud once again, Alex getting twenty nine League and Cup

goals and Mike getting sixteen. They had again dominated the scoring scene though it was interesting to see the well built, bustling Michael Robinson coming into the team for the last few games to give extra push up front and he set the crowd roaring when opening the scoring early in the game against Lincoln in mid-April, to put North End on the way to a four-nil win. Mick, in fact, got an early opportunity to establish himself in the team, for Mike Elwiss was transferred to Crystal Palace during the close season. In just over four seasons he had scored sixty goals for North End and his tenacity and willingness to hold the ball were also used to good effect in providing space for Alex Bruce.

Bruce was one of several players in the side who had previous experience of Second Division football. If he could keep scoring freely, then North End had a good chance of at least surviving there.

He made a good enough start in August 1978, with seven goals in the first four League and Cup games and with four points from their first three Second Division games, things looked promising even though the only newcomer at this stage was diminutive winger Eric Potts, a tricky and busy little ginger-haired player, who had played for Sheffield Wednesday and Brighton.

September was an unhappy month, however, for soon after a League Cup defeat by Queens Park Rangers, North End failed to win ten League games in a row and conceded five goals at both Brighton and Fulham. Two new players were signed, defenders Don O'Riordan from Tulsa Roughnecks (he had moved there from Derby) and versatile Brian Taylor from Plymouth, and three wins in a row in November pulled North End out of the bottom three.

Things seemed to be on the right road, when Charlton were hammered six-one in mid-December and then came a fine three-nil F.A. Cup win at Deepdale over Derby, who were at the time managed by Tommy Docherty. North End probably surprised even their fans with an unbeaten run of fifteen games and the game in which the run ended was a real thriller, as North End went down four-three at Newcastle. Certainly North End were a difficult team to beat as Southampton found when squeezing home one-nil in a fourth round F.A. Cup-tie before a 20,727 gate, Alan Ball getting the winner against his father's former club.

Wins at Bristol Rovers and Millwall ended the season on a bright note and Nobby Stiles could feel well satisfied with the way his side had not only consolidated their newly won Second Division place, but had climbed to seventh, their highest position since 1963/64.

The close season saw Mick Robinson sold to Manchester City

for a North End record fee of £765,000. For a twenty one year old with just fifteen goals to his credit in forty five League games, this perhaps seemed good business from North End's point a view, particularly as he had still to win his first Republic of Ireland cap at that stage.

In the light of this transfer, the £95,000 paid out in the previous March for Steve Elliott perhaps looked quite reasonable and he kicked off the season on the 18th August, 1979 in the best possible way, with an early goal in the three-nil win at Charlton. Midfielder Graham Bell, who had been signed from Oldham a few months earlier was also on the mark, as was Edinburgh born Ricky Thomson, who had been trying to establish himself over the previous five years. New Scottish international defender John Blackley signed from Newcastle, also did well in a resounding victory.

If the goals could still flow when Alex Bruce wasn't playing, then the omens looked good. Bruce himself came back to net twice in his first full League game against Bristol Rovers in mid-September, but then came a series of drawn games and this pushed North End down towards mid-table. Eleven of the first nineteen games ended all square and by the turn of the year it was clear that the over optimistic fans who had wondered about promotion, were being a little too premature.

Nor did the Cup competition bring any joy, though after the second round League Cup defeat by Birmingham, the F.A. Cup draw offered the chance of a bit of real giant killing with Ipswich coming to Deepdale. A slightly disappointing crowd of 16,986 saw North End more than hold their own in a goalless first half and the final score of three-nil to the visitors was not a true reflection of the gallant fight put up by a side that included local lad Andy McAteer at full back and recent signing Paul McGee (from Q.P.R.) in their first F.A. Cup-ties.

Two other young players coming into contention for regular places by this time, were Eire international John Anderson, a close season signing from West Bromwich Albion, and seventeen year old Ayrshire born Willie Naughton recruited when playing in Nuneaton.

There was something of a slide after the F.A. Cup defeat, but March brought a dramatic improvement with an unbeaten run of twelve games that ended in a three-two defeat at Cambridge in the very last match. Mike Elwiss returned on loan from Crystal Palace following a serious knee injury, and came on as substitute at Birmingham, when North End were two-nil down and played a big part in gaining a two-two draw. Mike was again the substitute in the next match, but played at number ten for the last eight

games scoring two goals at Leicester that transformed a half time deficit into a two-one win.

Earlier in the season John McMahon's twelve year spell at Deepdale had ended when he was transferred to Crewe after being on loan to Chesterfield. There was little close season transfer activity however and one wondered how the squad that had ended the season in tenth place would fare, the only significant change being the arrival of Welsh International Peter Sayer from Brighton. Would he fill the gap created by Mike Elwiss's departure?

Sadly things did not work out for him. In fact he had never been quite the same player after a serious leg injury while with Cardiff. Though three of the games were drawn North End scored only once in their first four League games. The poor start was, however, to some extent concealed by the enthusiasm generated by a spirited League Cup run. Fourth Division Wigan and Third Division Oxford were beaten and then a really brave display on the 29th October, when First Division West Bromwich Albion were held to a goalless draw at the Hawthorns. Could North End win the replay and not only avenge that 1954 F.A. Cup final defeat but also reach the last eight of the League Cup for the first time ever.

It needed a Graham Bell equaliser to keep North End in the tie, after Ally Brown had given West Brom a first half lead at Deepdale and luck was out again when Albion won the toss for ground, for the second replay. Against all odds Alex Bruce gave North End a half time lead at the Hawthorns and fans both at the game and listening to local radio were counting the minutes when Cyrille Regis equalised and then got the winner in extra time. How North End would have relished the money spinning fifth round tie at Maine Road.

Soon they were hitting another spate of drawn games, but a home draw against struggling Bristol Rovers brought promise of a little F.A. Cup glory. Rovers, however, chalked up one of only two away wins all season and in winning four-three at Deepdale, they scored more than twice in a game for the only time all season.

A crushing five-nil defeat at high flying West Ham at the end of January did nothing for anyone's confidence and a desperate relegation battle was clearly on. Hope flickered with successive wins over Chelsea and Orient, but March was not such a happy month as it had been in 1980 as four defeats in a row were suffered. Three of these were vital since they were against Bolton, Bristol Rovers and Oldham, who were also involved in the relegation battle. A win at fellow strugglers Cardiff seemed

priceless at the time and three days later a two-one win over Sheffield Wednesday captured the imagination to such an extent that after a brave draw at Notts County, over 18,000 packed into Deepdale to see the games against promotion seeking rivals Blackburn and Swansea.

A point was taken from Rovers, but Swansea had Division One in their sights and needed the three-one win to pip Blackburn for a First Division place. Now only a win at Derby and a defeat for Cardiff by West Ham could keep North End up. Unfortunately, West Ham were already certain of the Second Division championship and had little to play for. Even so they had a likely looking goal disallowed at Ninian Park before the game ended nil-nil. North End's two-one win at Derby was all in vain as they went down on goal difference. Fittingly perhaps, Alex Bruce got both goals. Somehow if the world was ending in a few minutes time one imagines Alex would find the net before it did so.

The fact that Alex has kept scoring goals has made life back in Division Three not quite so desperate as it might have been. Not that there was gloom about North End's preparation for their third spell there.

Nobby Stiles had in four seasons seen North End climb out of Division Three, finish seventh and tenth in Division Two (positions bettered in only three of the sixteen seasons spent in this Division since the end of the Second World War) but then had seen the sudden plunge back to Division Three. A change at the helm looked likely and so it proved. Perhaps the successor to Nobby was less predictable for it turned out to be Tommy Docherty, hero of three hundred and twenty four games for North End between 1949 and 1957 and a manager who had led Chelsea to a European Cup-winners Cup success and Manchester United to an F.A. Cup win. His spells with Rotherham, Derby and Queens Park Rangers had been less successful and more recently he had been working in Australia.

Hearts quickened, however, with the news of Tommy's appointment and pre-season preparations seemed to be full of promise. Though little money was available, changes were only to be expected with the Doc around and Jonathan Clark, who had been with him at Manchester United and Derby, was signed.

Early results were not promising, however, and in due course that long serving Manchester City stalwart Tommy Booth was signed together with promising midfielder Gary Buckley, also from Maine Road. John Kelly came from Tranmere and one remembered Docherty's signing of Steve Coppell from the same club when he was at Old Trafford. Barry Dunn came from

Sunderland and Doc was sure that all these newcomers had something to offer.

Unfortunately everything seemed to be done hastily and there was little time for anyone to settle. Results just weren't coming and with only three matches won and with a third of the season gone the threat of Fourth Division football was all too ominous. Brief promise of League Cup progress had flickered with a first leg win over Leicester in the second round, but North End crashed out at Filbert Street and did little better in the first round of the F.A. Cup at Chesterfield.

In December therefore, it was decided to part company with Docherty. One way and another results were not matching the talent at the Club and clearly the risk of relegation was too great to take whilst waiting and hoping for things to come good.

Docherty's successor was of different temperament, but with an impressive pedigree of management both of small teams and large. Gordon Lee had played for Aston Villa, like a number of his fellow residents of Hednesford in the West Midlands. He had coached Shrewsbury, managed Port Vale whom he had lifted from Division Four. He had been 'Manager of the Year' when taking Blackburn out of Division Three in 1975 and had taken Newcastle to a League Cup final a year later.

In five years at Everton he had fashioned a promising young team and taken them to a twice-replayed League Cup final. All he had failed to do was lift them to the same dizzy heights as Liverpool.

That Gordon was the man for North End few doubted, with him at the helm, despite a series of postponements due to the December freeze-up, the first four games brought three wins and a draw without a goal being conceded. Relatively few changes were made though goalkeeper Martin Hodge came on loan from Everton to give at least temporary rest to Peter Litchfield, who had come into League football in the previous season from Droylesden.

Gradually North End eased their way out of danger and though there was the occasional lapse, as when losing twice to Bristol City, exciting wins were picked up at Huddersfield (three-two) and at Walsall (three-nil).

In the final home game of the season against Chesterfield, Alex Bruce scored his one hundred and fiftieth League goal for North End in a two-nil victory. A sequence of six away games without defeat ended when Burnley won two-nil at Turf Moor, a result which virtually ensured promotion for Preston's neighbours. Although the last game was lost three-nil at Fulham, at the end of the season sixty one points had been gained and Gordon Lee had

saved North End from relegation and achieved a remarkable transformation from despair to delight. He had arrived at Deepdale when only fifteen points had been won from eighteen games, was nominated Division Three Manager of the Month in January and under his guidance forty six points were earned from twenty eight games. Gordon Lee had given the Club new life and shown the supporters positive signs of promise for the future.

Things seem to be buzzing again at Deepdale and as fans reflect on so many heart-stirring events in the past hundred years, they look forward to the next chapters of exciting history to be written by the present and future men of North End. Preston has every reason to be proud of its football club. Even in a year of recession and Argentinian crisis one looks towards a glorious future with major honours again being won. For Preston North End always has been and always will be a great football club.

PRESTON NORTH END

F.A. Cup Record

Season

(1st)	1883-84	Great Lever	Round 2 (H)	4-1	Dec. .1
		Eagley	Round 3 (H)	9-1	Dec. .29
		Upton Park	Round 4 (H)	1-1	Jan. .19
		(P.N.E. disqualified for professionalism).			

1884-85 DID NOT COMPETE

(2nd)	1885-86	Astley Bridge	Round 3 (H)	11-3	Nov. .18
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (A)	3-2	Dec. .12
		(P.N.E. disqualified for ineligibility of G. Drummond).			

First Series

(3rd)	1886-87	Queen's Park	Round 1 (A)	3-0	Oct. .30
		Witton	Round 2 (H)	6-0	Nov. .13
		Renton	Round 3 (A)	2-0	Jan. .22
			Round 4 (Bye).		

Second Series

		Old Foresters	Round 1 (A)	3-0	Jan. .29
		Old Carthusians	Round 2 (A)	2-1	Mar. .2
		West Bromwich Albion (at Nott'm)	Semi-Final	1-3	Mar. .5

First Series

(4th)	1887-88	Hyde	Round 1 (H)	26-0	Oct. .15
		(Record score for F.A. Cup Tie)			
		Everton	Round 2 (H)	6-0	Nov. .26
		Halliwel	Round 3 (H)	4-0	Dec. .3
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (H)	9-1	Dec. .10

Second Series

		Aston Villa	Round 1 (A)	3-1	Jan. .7
		Sheffield Wednesday	Round 2 (A)	3-1	Jan. .30
		Crewe Alexandra (at Liverpool)	Semi-Final	5-0	Feb. .18
		West Bromwich Albion (at the Oval)	Final	1-2	Mar. .24

(5th)	1888-89	Bootle	Round 2 (A)	3-0	Feb. .2
		Grimsby	Round 2 (A)	2-0	Feb. .16
		St. George's	Round 3 (H)	2-0	Mar. .2
		West Bromwich Albion (at Bramall Lane, Sheffield)	Semi-Final	1-0	Mar. .16
		Wolverhampton W. (at the Oval)	Final	3-0	Mar. .30
		(Cup Winners)			

(6th)	1889-90	Newton Heath	Round 1 (H)	6-1	Jan. .15
		Lincoln City	Round 2 (H)	4-0	Feb. .1
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 3 (H)	2-3	Feb. .15

(7th)	1890-91	Stoke	Round 1 (A)	0-3	Jan. .17
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(8th)	1891-92	Middlesbrough Ironopolis	Round 1 (H)	2-2	Jan. .16
		(Match not completed owing to frost)			
		Middlesbrough Ironopolis	Round 1 (H)	6-0	Jan. .23
		Middlesbrough	Round 2 (A)	2-1	Jan. .30
		Nottingham Forest	Round 3 (A)	0-2	Feb. .13

(9th)	1892-93	Burton Swifts	Round 1 (H)	9-2	Jan. .21
		Accrington	Round 2 (A)	4-1	Feb. . .4
		Middlesbrough Ironopolis	Round 3 (A)	2-2	Feb. .18
		Middlesbrough Ironopolis (Replay)	Round 3 (H)	7-0	Feb. .25
		Everton (at Sheffield)	Semi-Final	2-2	Mar. . .4
		Everton (Replay at Sheffield)	Semi-Final	0-0	Mar. .16
		Everton (Replay at Blackburn)	Semi-Final	1-2	Mar. .20
(10th)	1893-94	Reading	Round 1 (H)	18-0	Jan. .27
		Liverpool	Round 2 (A)	2-3	Feb. .10
(11th)	1894-95	Luton Town	Round 1 (A)	2-0	Feb. . .2
		Sunderland	Round 2 (A)	0-2	Feb. .16
(12th)	1895-96	Sunderland	Round 1 (A)	1-4	Feb. . .1
(13th)	1896-97	Manchester City	Round 1 (H)	6-0	Jan. .30
		Stoke	Round 2 (H)	2-1	Feb. .13
		Aston Villa	Round 3 (H)	1-1	Feb. .27
		Aston Villa (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	0-0	Mar. . .3
		Aston Villa (2nd Replay)	Round 3 (A)	2-3	Mar. .10
(14th)	1897-98	Newcastle	Round 1 (H)	1-2	Jan. .29
(15th)	1898-99	Grimsby Town	Round 1 (H)	7-0	Jan. .28
		Sheffield United	Round 2 (H)	2-2	Feb. .11
		Sheffield United (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	1-2	Feb. .16
(16th)	1899-1900	Tottenham Hotspur	Round 1 (H)	1-0	Jan. .27
		Blackburn Rovers	Round 2 (H)	1-0	Feb. .17
		Nottingham Forest	Round 3 (H)	0-0	Feb. .24
		Nottingham Forest (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	0-1	Feb. .28
(17th)	1900-01	Tottenham Hotspur	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Feb. . .9
		Tottenham Hotspur (Replay)	Round 1 (H)	1-4	Feb. .13
(18th)	1901-02	Manchester City	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Jan. .25
		Manchester City (Replay)	Round 1 (H)	0-0	Jan. .29
		Manchester City (2nd Replay)*	Round 1 (H)	2-4	Feb. . .3
*Preston won toss for choice of ground					
(19th)	1902-03	Bishop Auckland	Round 1 (A)	3-1	Dec. .13
		Manchester City	Round 2 (H)	3-1	Feb. . .7
		Millwall	Round 3 (A)	1-4	Feb. .21
(20th)	1903-04	Darwen	Round 1 (H)	2-1	Dec. .12
		Grimsby Town	Round 2 (H)	1-0	Feb. . .6
		Middlesbrough	Round 3 (H)	0-3	Feb. .20
(21st)	1904-05	Derby County	Round 1 (A)	2-0	Feb. . .4
		Bristol City	Round 2 (A)	0-0	Feb. .18
		Bristol City (Replay)	Round 2 (H)	1-0	Feb. .23
		Sheffield Wednesday	Round 3 (H)	1-1	Mar. . .4
		Sheffield Wednesday (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	0-3	Mar. . .9
(22nd)	1905-06	Birmingham	Round 1 (A)	0-1	Jan. .13

(23rd)	1906-07	Notts County	Round 1 (A)	0-1	Jan. .12
(24th)	1907-08	Brighton and Hove	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Jan. .11
		Brighton and Hove (Replay abandoned) ...	Round 1 (H)	1-1	Jan. .16
		Brighton and Hove (Replay at Chelsea) ...	Round 1 (A)	0-1	Jan. .20
(25th)	1908-09	Middlesbrough	Round 1 (H)	1-0	Jan. .16
		Sunderland	Round 2 (H)	1-2	Feb. .6
(26th)	1909-10	Coventry City	Round 1 (H)	1-2	Jan. .15
(27th)	1910-11	Brentford	Round 1 (A)	1-0	Jan. .14
		West Ham United	Round 2 (A)	0-3	Feb. .4
(28th)	1911-12	Manchester City	Round 1 (H)	0-1	Jan. .13
(29th)	1912-13	Plymouth	Round 1 (A)	0-2	Jan. .11
(30th)	1913-14	Bristol Rovers	Round 1 (H)	5-2	Jan. .10
		Glossop	Round 2 (A)	1-0	Jan. .31
		Sunderland	Round 3 (A)	0-2	Feb. .21
(31st)	1914-15	Manchester City	Round 1 (H)	0-0	Jan. .9
		Manchester City (Replay)	Round 1 (A)	0-3	Jan. .13
(32nd)	1919-20	Stockport County	Round 1 (H)	3-1	Jan. .10
		Blackpool	Round 2 (H)	2-1	Jan. .31
		Bradford City	Round 3 (H)	0-3	Feb. .21
(33rd)	1920-21	Bolton Wanderers	Round 1 (H)	2-0	Jan. .8
		Watford	Round 2 (H)	4-1	Jan. .29
		Luton Town	Round 3 (A)	3-2	Feb. .19
		Hull City	Round 4 (A)	0-0	Mar. .5
		Hull City (Replay)	Round 4 (H)	1-0	Mar. .10
		Tottenham Hotspur (at Hillsborough, Sheffield)	Semi-Final	1-2	Mar. .19
(34th)	1921-22	Wolverhampton W.	Round 1 (H)	3-0	Jan. .7
		Newcastle United	Round 2 (H)	3-1	Jan. .28
		Barnsley	Round 3 (A)	1-1	Feb. .18
		Barnsley (Replay)	Round 3 (H)	3-0	Feb. .23
		Arsenal	Round 4 (A)	1-1	Mar. .4
		Arsenal (Replay)	Round 4 (H)	2-1	Mar. .8
		Tottenham Hotspur (at Hillsborough, Sheffield)	Semi-Final	2-1	Mar. .25
		Huddersfield Town (at Chelsea)	Final	0-1	Apl. .29
(35th)	1922-23	Aberdare	Round 1 (A)	3-1	Jan. .13
		Charlton Athletic	Round 2 (A)	0-2	Feb. .3
(36th)	1923-24	Everton	Round 1 (A)	1-3	Jan. .12
(37th)	1924-25	Manchester City	Round 1 (H)	4-1	Jan. .10
		West Bromwich Albion	Round 2 (A)	0-2	Jan. .31
(38th)	1925-26	Blackburn Rovers	Round 3 (A)	1-1	Jan. .9
		Blackburn Rovers (Replay)	Round 3 (H)	1-4	Jan. .14

(39th)	1926-27	Lincoln City	Round 3 (A)	4-2	Jan. . . 8
		Middlesbrough	Round 4 (H)	0-3	Jan. . 29
(40th)	1927-28	Everton	Round 3 (H)	0-3	Jan. . 14
(41st)	1928-29	Watford	Round 3 (A)	0-1	Jan. . 12
(42nd)	1929-30	Portsmouth	Round 3 (A)	0-2	Jan. . 11
(43rd)	1930-31	Tottenham Hotspur	Round 3 (A)	1-3	Jan. . 10
(44th)	1931-32	Bolton Wanderers	Round 3 (H)	0-0	Jan. . . 9
		Bolton Wanderers (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	5-2	Jan. . 13
		Wolverhampton Wanderers	Round 4 (H)	2-0	Jan. . 23
		Huddersfield Town	Round 5 (A)	0-4	Feb. . 13
(45th)	1932-33	Birmingham	Round 3 (A)	1-2	Jan. . 14
(46th)	1933-34	Leeds United	Round 3 (A)	1-0	Jan. . 13
		Workington	Round 4 (A)	2-1	Jan. . 27
		Northampton Town	Round 5 (H)	4-0	Feb. . 17
		Leicester City	Round 6 (H)	0-1	Mar. . . 3
(47th)	1934-35	Barnsley	Round 3 (H)	0-0	Jan. . 12
		Barnsley (Replay)	Round 3 (A)	1-0	Jan. . 16
		Swindon Town	Round 4 (A)	2-0	Jan. . 26
		Bristol City	Round 5 (A)	0-0	Feb. . 16
		Bristol City (Replay) postponed	Round 5 (H)	—	Feb. . 20
		Bristol City (Replay)	Round 5 (H)	5-0	Feb. . 25
		West Bromwich Albion	Round 6 (A)	0-1	Mar. . . 2
(48th)	1935-36	Everton	Round 3 (A)	3-1	Jan. . 11
		Sheffield United	Round 4 (H)	0-0	Jan. . 25
		Sheffield United (Replay)	Round 4 (A)	0-2	Jan. . 30
(49th)	1936-37	Newcastle United	Round 3 (H)	2-0	Jan. . 16
		Stoke City	Round 4 (H)	5-1	Jan. . 30
		Exeter City	Round 5 (H)	5-3	Feb. . 20
		Tottenham Hotspur	Round 6 (A)	3-1	Mar. . . 6
		West Bromwich Albion (at Highbury)	Semi-Final	4-1	Apl. . 10
		Sunderland	Final	1-3	May . . 1
(50th)	1937-38	West Ham United	Round 3 (H)	3-0	Jan. . . 8
		Leicester City	Round 4 (H)	2-0	Jan. . 22
		Arsenal	Round 5 (A)	1-0	Feb. . 12
		Brentford	Round 6 (A)	3-0	Mar. . . 5
		Aston Villa (at Bramall Lane, Sheffield)	Semi-Final	2-1	Mar. . 26
		Huddersfield Town	Final	1-0	Apl. . 30
(Cup Winners, after extra time)					
(51st)	1938-39	Runcorn	Round 3 (A)	4-2	Jan. . . 7
		Aston Villa	Round 4 (H)	2-0	Jan. . 21
		Newcastle United	Round 5 (A)	2-1	Feb. . 11
		Portsmouth	Round 6 (A)	0-1	Mar. . . 4

(52nd)	1945-46	Everton	Round 3 (H)	2-1	Jan. . 5
		Everton	Round 3 (A)	2-2	Jan. . 9
		(Won on aggregate 4-3)			
		Manchester United	Round 4 (A)	0-1	Jan. . 26
		Manchester United	Round 4 (H)	3-1	Jan. . 30
		(Won on aggregate 3-2)			
		Charlton Athletic	Round 5 (H)	1-1	Feb. . 9
		Charlton Athletic	Round 5 (A)	0-6	Feb. . 13
		(Lost on aggregate 7-1)			
		(The above ties were decided on the two-leg games)			
(53rd)	1946-47	Northampton Town	Round 3 (A)	2-1	Jan. . 11
		Barnsley	Round 4 (H)	6-0	Jan. . 25
		Sheffield Wednesday (Postponed)	Round 5 (A)		Feb. . 8
		Sheffield Wednesday (Postponed)	Round 5 (A)		Feb. . 12
		Sheffield Wednesday (Postponed)	Round 5 (A)		Feb. . 17
		Sheffield Wednesday	Round 5 (A)	2-0	Feb. . 20
		Charlton Athletic	Round 6 (A)	1-2	Mar. . 1
(54th)	1947-48	Millwall	Round 3 (A)	2-1	Jan. . 10
		Portsmouth	Round 4 (A)	3-1	Jan. . 24
		Manchester City	Round 5 (A)	1-0	Feb. . 7
		Manchester United	Round 6 (A)	1-4	Feb. . 28
(55th)	1948-49	Mansfield Town	Round 3 (H)	2-1	Jan. . 8
		Leicester City	Round 4 (A)	0-2	Jan. . 29
(56th)	1949-50	Watford	Round 3 (A)	2-2	Jan. . 7
		Watford (Replay)	Round 3 (H)	0-1	Jan. . 11
(57th)	1950-51	Leicester City	Round 3 (A)	3-0	Jan. . 6
		Huddersfield Town	Round 4 (H)	0-2	Jan. . 27
(58th)	1951-52	Bristol Rovers	Round 3 (A)	0-2	Jan. . 12
(59th)	1952-53	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Round 3 (H)	5-2	Jan. . 10
		Tottenham Hotspur	Round 4 (H)	2-2	Jan. . 31
		Tottenham Hotspur (Replay)	Round 4 (A)	0-1	Feb. . 4
(60th)	1953-54	Derby County	Round 3 (A)	2-0	Jan. . 9
		Lincoln City	Round 4 (A)	2-0	Jan. . 30
		Ipswich Town	Round 5 (H)	6-1	Feb. . 20
		Leicester City	Round 6 (A)	1-1	Mar. . 13
		Leicester City (Replay)	Round 6 (H)	2-2	Mar. . 17
		Leicester City (2nd Replay) at Hillsborough, Sheffield	Round 6	3-1	Mar. . 22
		Sheffield Wednesday (at Maine Road, Manchester)	Semi-Final	2-0	Mar. . 27
		West Bromwich Albion (at Wembley)	Final	2-3	May. . 1
(61st)	1954-55	Fulham	Round 3 (A)	3-2	Jan. . 8
		Sunderland	Round 4 (H)	3-3	Jan. . 29
		Sunderland	Round 4 (A)	0-2	Feb. . 2
(62nd)	1955-56	West Ham United	Round 3 (A)	2-5	Jan. . 7

(63rd)	1956-57	Sheffield Wednesday	Round 3 (H)	0-0	Jan. . . 5
		Sheffield Wednesday	Round 3 (A)	2-2	Jan. . . 9
		Sheffield Wednesday (at Everton)	Round 3 (A)	5-1	Jan. . . 14
		Bristol Rovers	Round 4 (A)	4-1	Jan. . . 22
		Arsenal	Round 5 (H)	3-3	Feb. . . 16
		Arsenal	Round 5 (A)	1-2	Feb. . . 19
(64th)	1957-58	Bolton Wanderers	Round 3 (H)	0-3	Jan. . . 4
(65th)	1958-59	Derby County	Round 3 (A)	2-2	Jan. . . 10
		Derby County (Postponed)	Round 3 (H)		Jan. . . 13
		Derby County	Round 3 (H)	4-2	Jan. . . 19
		Bradford City	Round 4 (H)	4-3	Jan. . . 24
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 5 (A)	2-2	Feb. . . 14
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 5 (H)	1-1	Feb. . . 18
		Bolton Wanderers (at Blackburn)	Round 5 (A)	0-1	Feb. . . 23
(66th)	1959-60	Stoke City	Round 3 (A)	1-1	Jan. . . 9
		Stoke City	Round 3 (H)	3-1	Jan. . . 12
		Bristol Rovers	Round 4 (A)	3-3	Jan. . . 30
		Bristol Rovers	Round 4 (H)	5-1	Feb. . . 2
		Brighton & Hove Albion	Round 5 (H)	2-1	Feb. . . 20
		Aston Villa	Round 6 (A)	0-2	Mar. . . 12
(67th)	1960-61	Accrington Stanley	Round 3 (H)	1-1	Jan. . . 7
		Accrington Stanley	Round 3 (A)	4-0	Jan. . . 9
		Swansea Town	Round 4 (A)	1-2	Jan. . . 28
(68th)	1961-62	Watford	Round 3 (H)	3-2	Jan. . . 6
		Weymouth (Abandoned - fog)	Round 4 (H)	0-0	Jan. . . 27
		Weymouth	Round 4 (H)	2-0	Jan. . . 29
		Liverpool	Round 5 (A)	0-0	Feb. . . 17
		Liverpool	Round 5 (H)	0-0	Feb. . . 20
		Liverpool (at Old Trafford)	Round 5 (A)	1-0	Feb. . . 26
		Manchester United	Round 6 (H)	0-0	Mar. . . 10
		Manchester United	Round 6 (A)	1-2	Mar. . . 14
(69th)	1962-63	Sunderland	Round 3 (H)	1-4	Jan. . . 5
(70th)	1963-64	Nottingham Forest	Round 3 (A)	0-0	Jan. . . 4
		Nottingham Forest (Postponed)	Round 3 (H)		Jan. . . 7
		Nottingham Forest	Round 3 (H)	1-0	Jan. . . 13
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (A)	2-2	Jan. . . 25
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (H)	2-1	Jan. . . 27
		Carlisle United	Round 5 (H)	1-0	Feb. . . 15
		Oxford United	Round 6 (A)	2-1	Feb. . . 29
		Swansea Town (at Villa Park)	Semi-Final	2-1	Mar. . . 14
		West Ham United (at Wembley)	Final	2-3	May . . . 2
(71st)	1964-65	Barnet	Round 3 (A)	3-2	Jan. . . 9
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (H)	1-2	Jan. . . 30
(72nd)	1965-66	Charlton Athletic	Round 3 (A)	3-2	Jan. . . 23
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (A)	1-1	Feb. . . 12
		Bolton Wanderers	Round 4 (H)	3-2	Feb. . . 14
		Tottenham Hotspur	Round 5 (H)	2-1	Mar. . . 5
		Manchester United	Round 6 (H)	1-1	Mar. . . 26
		Manchester United	Round 6 (A)	1-3	Mar. . . 30

(73rd)	1966/67	Aston Villa	Round 3 (H)	0-1	Jan. .28
(74th)	1967-68	Queens Park Rangers	Round 3 (A)	3-1	Jan. .27
		Tottenham Hotspur	Round 4 (A)	1-3	Feb. .17
(75th)		Nottingham Forest	Round 3 (H)	3-0	Jan. .14
		Chelsea	Round 4 (H)	0-0	Jan. .25
		Chelsea (Abandoned - Floodlights failed) ..	Round 4 (A)	0-2	Jan. .29
		Chelsea	Round 4 (A)	1-2	Feb. .13
(76th)	1969/70	Derby County	Round 3 (H)	1-1	Jan. .13
		Derby County	Round 3 (A)	1-4	Jan. .17
(77th)	1970-71	Chester	Round 1 (H)	1-1	Nov. .21
		Chester	Round 1 (A)	0-1	Nov. .25
(78th)	1971-72	Bristol City	Round 3 (H)	4-2	Jan. .15
		Manchester United	Round 4 (H)	0-2	Feb. .15
(79th)	1972-73	Grimsby Town	Round 3 (A)	0-0	Jan. .13
		Grimsby Town	Round 3 (H)	0-1	Jan. .15
(80th)	1973-74	Fulham	Round 3 (A)	0-1	Jan. .15
(81st)	1974-75	Blyth Spartans	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Nov. .23
		Blyth Spartans	Round 1 (H)	5-1	Nov. .26
		Bishop Auckland	Round 2 (A)	2-0	Dec. .14
		Carlisle United	Round 3 (H)	0-1	Jan. .14
(82nd)	1975-76	Scunthorpe United	Round 1 (H)	2-1	Nov. .22
		Scarborough	Round 2 (A)	2-3	Dec. .13
(83rd)	1976-77	Crewe Alexandre	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Nov. .20
		Crewe Alexandre	Round 1 (H)	2-2	Nov. .23
		Crewe Alexandre (at Anfield)	Round 1 (A)	3-0	Nov. .29
		Halifax (Postponed)	Round 2 (A)		Dec. .11
		Halifax	Round 2 (A)	0-1	Dec. .14
(84th)	1977-78	Lincoln City	Round 1 (H)	3-2	Nov. .26
		Wrexham	Round 2 (H)	0-2	Dec. .17
(85th)	1978-79	Derby County (Postponed - frost)	Round 3 (H)		Jan. .16
		Derby County	Round 3 (H)	3-0	Jan. .16
		Southampton (Postponed)	Round 4 (H)		Jan. .27
		Southampton	Round 4 (H)	0-1	Feb. .12
(86th)	1979-80	Ipswich Town	Round 3 (H)	0-3	Jan. .15
(87th)	1980-81	Bristol Rovers	Round 3 (H)	3-4	Jan. .13
(88th)	1981-82	Chesterfield	Round 1 (A)	1-4	Nov. .21

PRESTON NORTH END

League Cup Record

1960-61	Peterborough United	Round 1 (H)	4-1	Oct. . 11
	Gillingham	Round 2 (A)	1-1	Oct. . 19
	Gillingham	Round 2 (H)	3-0	Oct. . 25
	Aston Villa	Round 3 (H)	3-3	Nov. 15
	Aston Villa	Round 3 (A)	1-3	Nov. 23
1961-62	Aldershot	Round 1 (H)	3-1	Sept. 13
	Swindon Town	Round 2 (H)	3-1	Oct. . 5
	Rotherham United	Round 3 (H)	0-0	Nov. 14
	Rotherham United	Round 3 (A)	0-3	Nov. 28
1962-63	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Queens Park Rangers	Round 2 (A)	2-1	Sept. 24
	Northampton Town	Round 3 (A)	1-1	Oct. . 16
	Northampton Town	Round 3 (H)	2-1	Oct. . 29
	Aston Villa	Round 4 (A)	2-6	Nov. 12
1963-64	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Newcastle United	Round 2 (A)	0-3	Sept. 25
	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Doncaster Rovers	Round 2 (A)	0-1	Sept. 23
1965-66	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Plymouth Argyle	Round 2 (H)	1-0	Sept. 22
	Huddersfield Town	Round 3 (A)	1-0	Oct. . 13
	Grimsby Town	Round 4 (A)	0-4	Nov. . 3
1966-67	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Crewe Alexandra	Round 2 (H)	2-0	Sept. 14
	Leeds United	Round 3 (H)	1-1	Oct. . 4
	Leeds United	Round 3 (A)	0-3	Oct. . 12
1967-68	Bye	Round 1	-	-
	Oxford United	Round 2 (A)	1-2	Sept. 13
1968-69	Oldham Athletic	Round 1 (H)	1-1	Aug. 14
	Oldham Athletic	Round 1 (A)	1-0	Aug. 21
	Crystal Palace	Round 2 (A)	1-3	Sept. . 4
1969-70	Bury	Round 1 (H)	0-1	Aug. 13
1970-71	Stockport County	Round 1 (A)	1-0	Aug. 19
	Torquay United	Round 2 (A)	3-1	Sept. . 9
	West Bromwich Albion	Round 3 (H)	0-1	Oct. . 6

1971-72	Barrow	Round 1 (A)	2-0	Aug. 18
	Tranmere Rovers	Round 2 (A)	1-0	Sept. . 8
	Watford	Round 3 (A)	1-1	Oct. . 6
	Watford	Round 3 (H)	2-1	Oct. . 11
	Tottenham Hotspur	Round 4 (A)	1-1	Oct. . 27
	Tottenham Hotspur	Round 4 (H)	1-2	Nov. . 8
1972-73	Workington Town	Round 1 (A)	0-1	Aug. 16
1973-74	Bolton Wanderers	Round 1 (A)	1-1	Aug. 29
	Bolton Wanderers	Round 1 (H)	0-2	Sept. . 3
1974-75	Rochdale	Round 1 (H)	1-0	Aug. 20
	Sunderland	Round 2 (H)	2-0	Sept. 10
	Chester	Round 3 (A)	0-1	Oct. . 9
1975-76	Blackburn Rovers	Round 1 (H)		
		1st Leg	2-0	Aug. 19
	Blackburn Rovers	Round 1 (A)		
		2nd Leg	0-0	Aug. 27
		Aggregate	2-0	
	Hull City	Round 2 (A)	2-4	Sept. . 9
1976-77	Bury	Round 1 (A)		
		1st Leg	1-2	Aug. 14
	Bury	Round 1 (H)		
		2nd Leg	1-1	Aug. 17
		Aggregate	2-3	
1977-78	Port Vale	Round 1 (A)		
		1st Leg	1-2	Aug. 13
	Port Vale	Round 1 (H)		
		2nd Leg	2-1	Aug. 16
		Aggregate	3-3	
	Port Vale (at Stockport)	Round 1 (A)	2-1	Aug. 23
	Walsall	Round 2 (A)	0-0	Aug. 30
	Walsall	Round 2 (H)	0-1	Sept. . 6
1978-79	Huddersfield Town	Round 1 (H)		
		1st Leg	3-0	Aug. 12
	Huddersfield Town	Round 1 (A)		
		2nd Leg	2-2	Aug. 15
		Aggregate	5-2	
	Queens Park Rangers	Round 2 (H)	1-3	Aug. 29
1979-80	Bye	Round 1		
	Birmingham City	Round 2 (A)		
		1st Leg	1-2	Aug. 28
	Birmingham City	Round 2 (H)		
		2nd Leg	0-1	Sept. . 4
		Aggregate	1-3	

1980-81	Bye	Round 1		
	Wigan Athletic	Round 2 (H)		
		1st Leg	1-0	Aug. 26
	Wigan Athletic	Round 2 (A)		
		2nd Leg	2-1	Sept. . 3
		Aggregate	3-1	
	Oxford United	Round 3 (H)	1-0	Sept. 23
	West Bromwich Albion	Round 4 (A)	0-0	Oct. . 29
	West Bromwich Albion	Round 4 (H)	1-1	Nov. . 4
	West Bromwich Albion	Round 4 (A)	1-2	Nov. 12
	P.N.E. lost toss for choice of ground.	After extra time.		

1981-82	Halifax Town	Round 1 (A)		
		1st Leg	2-1	Sept. . 1
	Halifax Town	Round 1 (H)		
		2nd Leg	0-0	Sept. 15
		Aggregate	2-1	
	Leicester City	Round 2 (H)		
		1st Leg	1-0	Oct. . . 6
	Leicester City	Round 2 (A)		
		2nd Leg	0-4	Oct. . 28
		Aggregate	1-4	

PRESTON NORTH END

League Appearances and Goalscorers

1888-89

				1 - Div.
Dewhurst F. 17	Gordon J. B. 20	Inglis J. 1	Russell D. 17	
Drummond G. 11	Graham J. 22	Mills-Roberts	Thomson S. 16	
Edwards J. 4	Graham W. 6	Dr. R. H. 2	Trainer J. 20	
Goodall A. L. 2	Holmes R. 22	Robertson T. S. 21	Whittle R. 1	
Goodall J. 21	Howarth R. H. 18	Ross J. D. 21		

Scorers:

J. Goodall 21, J. Ross 18, Dewhurst 12, Gordon 10, Thomson 4, Edwards 3, Robertson 2, Whittle 1, Inglis 1, A. Goodall 1, untraced 1 - TOTAL 74

1889-90

				1 - Div.
Dewhurst F. 6	Heaton C. 2	Johnstone W. 2	Ross N. J. 19	
Drummond G. 18	Hendry W. H. 1	Kelso R. 20	Russell D. 22	
Gordon J. B. 22	Holmes R. 19	Pauls C. A. 3	Thomson S. 18	
Graham J. 17	Howarth R. H. 21	Robertson T. S. 6	Trainer J. 22	
Gray F. J. S. 1	Inglis J. 2	Ross J. D. 21		

Scorers:

J. Ross 24, N. Ross 16, Thomson 10, Drummond 9, Russell 4, Gordon 3, Inglis 1, Dewhurst 1, Gray 1, Heaton 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 71

1890-91

				1 - Div.
Brandon J. 8	Drummond G. 21	Holmes R. 21	Raeside H. 2	
Campbell W. C. 4	Drummond J. 11	Howarth R. H. 7	Ross N. J. 21	
Crossens B. 7	Gallacher H. 16	Kelso R. 18	Ross J. D. 13	
Dewhurst F. 2	Gordon J. B. 18	McKenna W. 9	Stewart W. S. 21	
Dobson J. 7	Hendry W. H. 13	Metcalf T. 1	Trainer J. 22	

Scorers:

J. Ross 6, Dobson 6, Gallacher 6, Gordon 5, Campbell 4, G. Drummond 4, J. Drummond 3, Brandon 3, Crossens 3, McKenna 2, Metcalf 1, Dewhurst 1 - TOTAL 44

1891-92

				1 - Div.
Becton F. 10	Holmes J. 1	Norris F. 3	Sharp J. 19	
Drummond G. 23	Holmes R. 25	Roberts R. 5	Stewart W. S. 25	
Gallacher H. 26	Howarth R. H. 2	Ross J. D. 26	Taylor J. S. 1	
Gordon J. B. 25	Lindley T. 1	Ross N. J. 16	Towie T. 22	
Grier W. H. 1	McKenna W. 3	Sanders M. 26	Trainer J. 26	

Scorers:

J. Ross 16, Drummond 14, Towie 8, Becton 7, Gordon 6, Gallacher 3, Stewart 2, Sanders 2, Grier 1, Sharp 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 61

1892-93

				1 - Div.
Becton F. 29	Gordon J. B. 18	Maguire H. 3	Sanders M. 28	
Cowan J. 26	Grier W. H. 27	Ross J. D. 25	Stewart W. S. 24	
Drummond G. 20	Holmes J. 10	Ross N. J. 28	Thornber R. 4	
Gallacher H. 12	Holmes R. 28	Russell D. 18	Trainer J. 30	

Scorers:

Becton 17, Russell 11, Ross J. 10, Drummond 5, Sanders 3, Stewart 3, Cowan 2, Grier 2, Gallacher 2, N. Ross 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 57

1893-94

1 - Div.

Ball A.6	Drummond G.24	McCann J.6	Ross N. J.10
Barton J.1	Dunn H.5	Maguire H.1	Roy J.1
Becton F.26	Gordon J. B.6	Miller T. E.2	Sanders M.29
Connor E. A.1	Grier W. H.30	Nidd G. F.3	Sharp J.26
Cowan J.29	Henderson A.2	Pinnell A.1	Smith E. D.2
Cunningham J.16	Holmes J.8	Poole R. F.2	Stormont R.9
Dickson C.3	Holmes R.27	Ross J. D.24	Trainer J.30

Scorers:

J. Ross 17, Cowan 7, Becton 6, Sanders 3, Drummond 2, Grier 2, Dickson 1, McCann 1, Cunningham 1, Sharp 1, Smith 1, Gordon 1, untraced 1 - TOTAL 44

1894-95

1 - Div.

Allan R.2	Drummond G.13	Holmes R.29	Sharp J.28
Barr R.28	Dunn H.27	Howarth R. H.2	Smith E. D.28
Becton F.22	Gordon J. B.6	Orr W.10	Tait A.3
Blyth R.13	Grier W. H.21	Pierce J.1	Trainer J.30
Cunningham J.12	Henderson A.26	Sanders M.29	

Scorers:

Smith 12, Becton 11, Barr 10, Henderson 10, Cunningham 5, Sanders 4, Pierce 2, Allan 1, Grier 1, Sharp 1, Blyth 1, Drummond 1, Orr 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 62

1895-96

1 - Div.

Barr R.1	Eccleston T.2	Lonsdale G.2	Smith J.5
Blyth R.30	Eccleston W.3	Orr W.27	Smith T.19
Brown A.1	Grier W. H.20	Pierce J.19	Stevenson J.12
Cunningham J.19	Henderson A.23	Sanders M.29	Tait A.25
Drummond G.5	Holmes R.30	Sharp J.20	Trainer J.19
Dunn H.5	Joy W. J.9	Smith E. D.3	Wright J.2

Scorers:

Pierce 8, Sanders 6, Blyth 5, T. Smith 5, Stevenson 4, Henderson 4, Cunningham 3, Lonsdale 1, J. Smith 1, Holmes 1, Grier 1, W. Eccleston 1, Drummond 1, Orr 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 44

1896-97

1 - Div.

Blyth R.30	Eccleston W.7	Orr W.25	Stevenson J.14
Boyd D.26	Findlay A.2	Pierce J.3	Tait A.15
Brown A.20	Grier W. H.6	Pratt T.22	Trainer J.30
Cunningham J.4	Henderson A.26	Sanders M.26	Vickers H.1
Dunn H.17	Holmes R.29	Smith T.27	

Scorers:

Boyd 12, Henderson 11, Brown 9, Stevenson 7, Pratt 6, Smith 4, Sanders 2, Eccleston 2, Findlay 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 55

1897-98

1 - Div.

Becton F.4	Eccleston W.14	McLatchie C.7	Stevenson J.25
Blessington J.5	Halsall L.17	Matthews M. H.18	Tait A.7
Blyth R.17	Hargreaves R.8	May J.3	Trainer J.24
Boyd D.11	Henderson G.2	Pierce J.12	Whittle D.1
Brown A.20	Holmes R.28	Pratt T.18	
Drummond G.3	Hunter J.15	Sanders M.28	
Dunn H.26	McBride P.6	Smith T.11	

Scorers:

Brown 12, Stevenson 11, Pratt 3, Halsall 3, Eccleston 2, McLatchie 1, Blyth 1, Pierce 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 35

1898-99

Blessington J.10	Elliott J.1	Hunter J.1	Russell D.27
Blyth R.24	Gara A.7	McBride P.34	Sanders M.14
Brown A.23	Green J.1	McIntyre P.22	Tait A.26
Chalmers J.10	Halsall L.28	McLatchie C.2	Whittle D.4
Drummond G.1	Hargreaves R.3	Murray P.31	
Dunn H.22	Holmes R.19	Pierce J.2	
Eccleston W.30	Howarth R. H.1	Pratt T.31	

Scorers:

Pratt 13, Murray 9, Brown 6, Halsall 4, Russell 3, Gara 3, McIntyre 2, Chalmers 1,
Blessington 1, Sanders 1, McLatchie 1 - TOTAL 44

1899-1900

Atherton J.13	Elliott J.32	Holmes R.18	Pierce J.19
Banks R.4	Gara A.19	McBride P.34	Sanderson P. B.1
Brunton M.8	Green E.5	McIntyre P.33	Smith G.9
Dunn H.34	Halsall L.11	Murray P.20	Stansfield H.4
Eccleston T.2	Henderson A.25	Orrell R.15	Stevenson J.28
Eccleston W.32	Hodgson T.2	Parker H.1	Whittle D.5

Scorers:

Henderson 11, Gara 6, Stevenson 5, Pierce 4, Murray 3, Brunton 2, McIntyre 2,
Elliott 1, T. Eccleston 1, Sanders 1, Stansfield 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 38

1900-1901

Beaver J.1	Henderson A.15	Montgomery G.4	Smith G.17
Becton F.26	Hodgson T.2	Orrell R.13	Smith T.2
Dunn H.28	Holmes R.4	Parker H.2	Tod G.26
Eccleston T.9	James R.3	Pierce J.17	Stevenson J.2
Elliott J.27	McBride P.26	Pratt T.33	Wilkie T.3
Gara A.25	McMahon J.21	Rogers J.10	Woodhouse S. H.2
Green E.21	McIntyre P.32	Sanderson P. B.1	

Scorers:

Becton 10, Gara 9, Pratt 8, Green 6, Rogers 3, Eccleston 2, Elliott 2, McIntyre 2,
Tod 2, Henderson 1, Pierce 1, G. Smith 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 49

1901-1902

Beaver J.8	Green E.5	Melia J.2	Spence G.19
Elliott J.22	Griffiths F. J.10	Orrell R.32	Tickle B.2
Fenton F.5	Howell R.25	Pearson F.5	Tod G.17
Forshaw E.1	Jack R.23	Pegg R.15	Walton J.7
Gara A.15	McBride P.24	Pratt T.21	Wilcox H. M.31
Good M.24	McMahon J.32	Rogers J.29	

Scorers:

Wilcox 13, Pegg 9, Pratt 9, Rogers 8, Gara 7, Spence 7, Jack 6, Green 3, Good 2,
Walton 2, Pearson 2, Elliott 1, Howell 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 71

1902-1903

Beaver J.13	Howell R.30	Pratt T.19	Walton J.18
Bond R.11	Hunter J.33	Sanderson P. B.4	Warner J.2
Bourne R.5	McBride P.34	Shorrock J.1	Wilcox H. M.34
Derbyshire J. E.20	McMahon J.12	Smith P. J.28	
Fenton F.14	Orrell R.33	Tickle B.1	
Holmes R.1	Pearson F.28	Tod G.34	

Scorers:

Smith 17, Pearson 15, Wilcox 13, Pratt 3, Bond 2, Walton 2, Beaver 1, Hunter 1,
Tod 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 56

1903-1904

2 - Div.

Bell J.32	Hunter J.31	Orrell R.24	Tickle B.3
Bond R.12	Lyon W. J.6	Rodway T.1	Tod G.1
Bourne R. A.33	McBride P.30	Smith P. J.33	Warner J.9
Derbyshire J. E.34	McLean J.33	Smith T.8	Wilcox H. M.28
Howell R.4	Maier D.14	Taylor H.4	Wilson J.4

Scorers:

P. Smith 24, Wilcox 15, Bell 12, Bourne 4, T. Smith 3, Maier 2, Bond 1,
McLean 1 - TOTAL 62

1904-1905

1 - Div.

Bell J.13	Derbyshire J. E.27	McLean J.33	Smith P. J.32
Bond R.30	Hunter J.31	Maier D.5	Tod G.5
Bourne R. A.24	Lyon W. J.33	Orrell R.14	Turnbull J. M.8
Brown A.17	McBride P.34	Rodger T.5	Wilcox H. M.6
Catterall J.4	McKie D.3	Rodway T.27	Wilson J.23

Scorers:

P. Smith 14, Bond 8, Brown 6, Wilson 4, Bell 3, Bourne 3, McKie 2, Hunter 1,
Rodger 1 - TOTAL 42

1905-1906

1 - Div.

Ashton H.2	Danson H.8	McBride P.36	Smith P. J.35
Bell J.30	Derbyshire J. E.26	McLean J.35	Taylor H.2
Blyth W.1	Hartley P.1	Maier D.5	Tod G.7
Bond R.33	Hunter J.37	Orrell R.9	Turnbull J. M.5
Brown A.5	Lockett A.32	Pearson H.1	Wilson J.34
Cook L.3	Lyon W. J.34	Rodway T.37	

Scorers:

Bond 17, Bell 11, Smith 9, Lockett 4, Wilson 3, Lyon 2, Danson 2, Brown 1, Hunter 1,
Derbyshire 1, Rodway 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 54

1906-1907

1 - Div.

Ashton H.1	Dawson G.24	Lyon W. J.27	Smith P. J.31
Barlow G. H.1	Derbyshire J. E.1	McBride P.34	Stringfellow H.20
Becton M.16	Farrington G.2	McCall J.1	Taylor H.4
Bell J.26	Goodburn H.2	McLean J.27	Tod G.9
Bond R.15	Hartley P.2	Pearson H.1	Wilson J.34
Butler W.3	Hunter J.37	Roberts W.2	Winchester J.1
Cook L.1	Lavery W.14	Rodway T.30	
Danson H.28	Lockett A.23	Sanderson W.1	

Scorers:

Dawson 11, Smith 8, Wilson 8, Bond 3, Danson 3, Becton 2, Bell 1, Hunter 1, McLean 1,
Stringfellow 1, Lockett 1, Lyon 1, Barlow 1, Rodway 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 44

1907-1908

1 - Div.

Barlow G. H.9	Derbyshire J. E.16	McBride P.35	Smith P. J.34
Becton M.7	Donaldson J.1	McCall J.6	Stringfellow H.20
Bell J.7	Gillibrand C. S.3	McFadyen C.13	Taylor H.3
Bond R.18	Holdsworth E.1	McLaughlin W. J.13	Williamson C. W.1
Carlin J.25	Hunter J.17	McLean J.33	Wilson J.27
Danson H.17	Lockett A.9	Rodway T.37	Winchester J.5
Dawson G.25	Lyon W. J.36	Sanderson W.12	

Scorers:

Smith 11, Dawson 7, Wilson 6, Derbyshire 5, Carlin 4, Lyon 2, Bell 2, Gillibrand 2, Bond 1,
McLean 1, Sanderson 1, Barlow 1, Hunter 1, Stringfellow 1, Becton 1, Danson 1 - TOTAL 47

1908-1909

Bond R.29	Hodgson F.1	McLean J.7	Taylor H.1
Carlin J.7	Holdsworth E.25	Main W.6	Wilson J.32
Chadwick T.9	Lavery W.8	Platt J.12	Winchester J.17
Danson H.29	Lyon W. J.34	Rodway T.30	Winterhalder A.7
Dawson G.16	McBride P.37	Sanderson W.24	
Derbyshire J. E.2	McCall J.23	Smith P. J.30	
Henderson J.7	McFadyen C.19	Smith R.6	

Scorers:

Wilson 11, Dawson 6, Sanderson 6, Danson 6, P. Smith 6, Platt 4, Lyon 3, Bond 2,
Derbyshire 2, Carlin 1, R. Smith 1 - TOTAL 48

1909-1910

Arthurs C. H.8	Holdsworth E.16	Mounteney A.31	Spence W. E.1
Baker G.1	Lyon W. J.33	Parnell G. F.15	Taylor H.2
Bannister J.29	McBride P.36	Platt J.16	Wilson J.4
Catterall J.2	McCall J.24	Roche G.3	Winchester J.14
Danson H.24	McFadyen C.24	Rodway T.37	Winterhalder A.17
Dawson W.4	McLean D.27	Sanderson W.8	
Galbraith D.3	McLean J.14	Smith P. J.16	
Hodgson W. H.2	Main W.6	Smith R.1	

Scorers:

D. McLean 18, Danson 6, Mounteney 6, Bannister 5, Winterhalder 4, Platt 3, Rodway 2,
McCall 2, P. Smith 1, R. Smith 1, Catterall 1, Arthurs 1, Spence 1, Parnell 1 - TOTAL 52

1910-1911

Anderson D. R.1	English J.3	McLean D.22	Taylor H.3
Baker G.8	Galbraith D.1	McLean J.2	Thompson J. W.34
Bannister J.30	Hall J. E.9	McLean L.1	Thompson R.1
Best H. O.4	Holdsworth E.33	Mouteney A.21	Wareing W.37
Broadhurst F.2	Lyon W. J.9	Platt J.2	Wilson J.5
Chester A.2	McBride P.35	Robertson W.2	Winterhalder A.30
Danson H.24	McCall J.32	Rodway T.30	
Dickinson T. J.1	McFadyen C.33	Spence W. E.1	

Scorers:

D. McLean 7, Bannister 7, Mounteney 5, J. Thompson 5, Danson 4, Hall 2, Wareing 2, McCall 2,
Rodway 2, Winterhalder 2, Anderson 1, Chester 1 - TOTAL 40

1911-1912

Anderson D. R.8	English J.3	McBride P.7	Taylor H.27
Baker G.14	Galloway T.15	McCall J.27	Thompson J. W.24
Bannister J.6	Green B. H.36	McFadyen C.21	Thompson R.11
Beaumont S.1	Hall J. E.9	McKellar C.2	Toone P. E. S.4
Bradley H.2	Holdsworth E.35	McKnight J.9	Turner R. F.8
Broadhurst F.1	Johnston J.3	Morley J. B.10	Wareing W.33
Danson H.25	Kirby W.38	Rodway T.37	Winterhalder A.2

Scorers:

Kirby 14, Green 10, J. Thompson 4, R. Thompson 2, Rodway 2, McKnight 2, Anderson 2,
McFadyen 1, Hall 1, McCall 1, Morley 1 - TOTAL 40

1912-1913

				2 - Div			
Baker G.	1	Gerrish W. W.	3	McCall J.	33	Swarbrick W.	1
Barlow G. H.	28	Green B. H.	30	McFadyen C.	38	Taylor H.	28
Broadhurst F.	1	Halliwell J. A.	22	McKnight J.	3	Thompson R.	5
Common A.	21	Holdsworth E.	38	Marshall J.	16	Toone P. E. S.	10
Dawson G.	26	Kirby W.	17	Morley J. B.	35	Wareing W.	9
Galloway T.	9	Luke W.	8	Rodway T.	36		

Scorers:

Green 13, Halliwell 10, Morley 8, Kirby 8, Common 7, Marshall 2, Luke 2, Holdsworth 2,
Barlow 1, Dawson 1, McCall 1, Rodway 1 - TOTAL 56

1913-1914

				1 - Div			
Barlow G. H.	34	Green B. H.	7	Kennedy J.	3	Pinch C. E.	3
Bond J.	1	Halliwell J. A.	4	McCall J.	29	Rodway T.	25
Broadhurst F.	25	Henderson W.	8	McFadyen C.	16	Shanley F.	1
Broome T. A.	15	Holbem W.	8	Macauley J. L.	22	Swarbrick W.	3
Common A.	14	Holdsworth E.	27	Marshall J.	10	Taylor H.	34
Dawson G.	27	Johnston J.	7	Morley J. B.	21	Toward A. N.	18
Ford J.	18	Jones C. E.	2	Osborn F.	35	Vickers S.	1

Scorers:

Osborn 22, Macauley 8, Toward 4, Barlow 3, Common 2, Ford 2, McCall 2, Morley 2, Swarbrick 2,
Bond 1, Dawson 1, Henderson 1, Kennedy 1, Marshall 1 - TOTAL 52

1914-1915

				2 - Div			
Alstead A.	3	Dawson G.	26	Henderson W.	2	Macauley J. L.	37
Barbour J.	12	Dexter G.	1	Holbem W.	29	Morley J. B.	28
Barlow G. H.	17	Ford J.	25	Holdworth E.	35	Newton S.	8
Broadhurst F.	35	Gillow W. B.	3	Jones C. E.	20	Osborn F.	26
Broome T. A.	31	Grant D. C.	9	Kelly H.	4	Rodway T.	8
Clifton W.	1	Hayes W.	10	McCall J.	36	Toward A. N.	12

Scorers:

Osborn 17, Macauley 16, McCall 5, Morley 4 Toward 4, Grant 3, Ford 2, Barbour 2, Barlow 1,
Broome 1, Broadhurst 1, Dawson 1, Gillow 1, Kelly 1, Holdsworth 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 61

1919-1920

1919-1920						1 - Div	
Alstead A.	11	Foote G.	5	Jefferis F.	12	Osborn F.	7
Bainbridge S.	14	Gillow W. B.	4	Jones C. E.	12	Quinn P.	11
Broadhurst F.	33	Goodwin R.	7	Kerr E. J.	2	Roberts W. T.	35
Broome T. A.	19	Greatorex W.	17	Knight J. H.	1	Speak G.	13
Causar A. H.	17	Green J.	4	Lees J. W.	20	Tatton J. H.	18
Clifton W.	3	Halligan W.	16	McCall J.	32	Threlfall T.	2
Daniel G.	12	Henderson W.	1	Marshall W.	4	Whalley F.	8
Davies S.	11	Holdsworth E.	12	Mercer W.	2	Woodhouse R. T.	37
Dawson G.	35	Hosker J.	10	Miller J.	15		

Scorers:

Roberts 26, Woodhouse 9, Davies 4, Jefferis 4, Hosker 2, Broadhurst 2, Halligan 2, Broome 1,
Bainbridge 1, Daniel 1, McCall 1, Miller 1, Osborn 1, Quinn 1, Tatton 1 - TOTAL 57

1920-1921

1 - Div

Broadhurst F.8	Greatorex W.7	McCall J.33	Sharkey B. J.1
Causer A. H.26	Green T.4	Marquis F.2	Speak G.24
Croft H.1	Hamilton T.14	Marshall J.7	Waddell G.32
Davies S.13	Holland J.3	Mercer W.31	Wilcock G. H.7
Dawson G.9	Hosker J.2	Mitchell J. F.5	Woodhouse R. T.34
Doolan A.31	Jefferis F.35	Quinn P.35	
Duxbury T.4	Knight J. H.2	Rawlings A.42	
Elliott J. W.4	Lees J. W.11	Roberts W. T.35	

Scorers:

Roberts 17, Woodhouse 17, Davies 7, Rawlings 6, Quinn 5, Jefferis 5,
Waddell 2, McCall 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 61

1921-1922

1 - Div

Branston J. H.12	Ferris J.8	Marquis F.4	Sapsford G. D.1
Broadhurst F.2	Fox F. S.3	Marshall J.6	Shears A. E.2
Causer A. H.3	Hamilton T.37	Mercer W.17	Speak G.10
Crawford R.5	Holland J.2	Mitchell J. F.16	Waddell G.18
Croft H.1	Irving J.15	Quatrill A. E.5	Williamson J.14
Doolan A.30	Jefferis F.27	Quinn P.34	Woodhouse R. T.37
Duxbury T.28	Latham N.1	Rawlings A.40	Yates W. J.6
Elliott J. W.8	McCall J.28	Roberts W. T.42	

Scorers:

Roberts 18, Woodhouse 12, Quinn 4, Jefferis 3, Rawlings 2, Sapsford 1, McCall 1 - TOTAL 42

1922-1923

1 - Div

Branston J. H.42	Hamilton T.38	Mercer W.20	Speak G.18
Crawford R.28	Jefferis F.6	Quatrill A. E.28	Storey J.1
Doolan A.16	Laird A.17	Quinn P.7	Williamson J.9
Duxbury T.12	McCall J.14	Rawlings A.38	Woodhouse R. T.32
Ferris J.24	Marquis F.3	Roberts W. T.39	Yates W. J.11
Gilchrist J. E.17	Marshall J.28	Sapsford G. D.14	

Scorers:

Roberts 28, Ferris 7, Rawlings 6, Quatrill 5, Woodhouse 5, Marquis 3,
Sapsford 3, Laird 2, Duxbury 1 - TOTAL 60

1923-1924

1 - Div

Branston J. H.22	Hamilton T.36	O'Rawe F.4	Scott L.2
Crawford R.42	Harrison G.24	Prout G. W.18	Wade W. A.8
Duggins A. E.2	Laird A.11	Quatrill A. E.31	Williamson J.1
Duxbury T.8	McCall J.32	Rawlings A.27	Woodhouse R. T.25
Ferris J.21	Marquis F.17	Reay H.1	Yates W. J.40
Forrest J.2	Marshall J.7	Roberts W. T.42	
Gilchrist J. E.2	Mercer W.30	Sapsford G. D.7	

Scorers:

Roberts 26, Harrison 6, Ferris 4, Marquis 4, Rawlings 3, Sapsford 2,
Quatrill 2, Laird 2, Woodhouse 2, Crawford 1 - TOTAL 52

1924-1925

1 - Div

Aitken W. J.41	Harrison G.38	Mercer W.14	Sapsford G. D.12
Barnes H.26	Henderson W.9	Miller J. H.5	Thompson C. H.1
Branston J. H.16	Hetherington J.5	Paterson J.17	Wade W. A.30
Cook G.13	Hicks T. G.2	Phizacklea J. R.15	Williamson J.25
Crawford R.25	Hirst H.2	Pickering F. O.1	Woodhouse R. T.34
Forrest J.31	McCall J.20	Prout G. W.26	Woodward T.15
Hamilton T.18	Marquis F.9	Roberts W. T.6	Yates W. J.6

Scorers:

Harrison 9, Barnes 8, Woodhouse 6, Aitken 5, Roberts 2, Marquis 2, Williamson 2,
Sapsford 2, Henderson 1 - TOTAL 37

1925-26

2 - Div

Aitken W. J.15	Devlin T.5	Hicks T. G.5	Wade W. A.22
Barnes H.13	Dickie J.3	Jackson W.24	Walsh C.4
Bosbury C. E.2	Eastwood C. M.20	James A. W.34	Wharton C. N.7
Bradford J. W.1	Forrest J.18	McEachian D.1	Williamson J.14
Branston J. H.32	Gerrard E.10	Morris D.20	Woodhouse R. T.7
Cook G.10	Gibson D.13	Phizachlea J. R.7	Woodward T.9
Craven J.1	Gillespie T. B.19	Prout G. W.3	
Crawford R.35	Hamilton T.27	Russell W. F.40	
Daniel D.1	Harrison G.38	Sapsford G. D.2	

Scorers:

James 14, Russell 12, Harrison 10, Jackson 10, Barnes 8, Aitken 5, Eastwood 2,
Woodhouse 2, Gillespie 2, Woodward 1, Craven 1, Devlin 1, Morris 1, Dickie 1, OG 1

TOTAL 71

1926-27

2 - Div

Branston J. H.4	Devlin T.3	James A. W.39	Shaw J.3
Cameron K.8	Grierson G.2	Kerr J.13	Wade W. A.41
Carr A. G.32	Hamilton T.28	Morris D.41	Wharton C. N.6
Chandler S. E.41	Harrison G.38	Roberts W. T.30	Whitehead W. T.3
Craven J.2	Hicks T. G.2	Robson N.9	Williams F. H.8
Crawford R.42	Jackson W.21	Russell W. F.40	Young M. S.6

Scorers:

Roberts 26, Chandler 12, James 11, Harrison 6, Russell 5, Robson 5, Jackson 3, Morris 2,
Whitehead 1, Crawford 1, Young 1, Cameron 1 - TOTAL 74

1927-28

2 - Div

Cameron K.4	Harrison G.41	Nisbet G.3	Russell W. F.25
Carr A. G.27	James A. W.38	Parry G.1	Smith A. C.8
Chandler S. E.19	Kendall J.2	Pilkington T.1	Wade W. A.27
Crawford R.41	Metcalfe J.16	Reid A. M.33	Ward F.26
Hamilton H.6	Morris D.42	Roberts W. T.25	
Hamilton T.42	Moss F.13	Robson N.22	

Scorers:

Robson 19, James 18, Harrison 15, Roberts 13, Reid 13, Russell 10, Cameron 4, Morris 4,
Crawford 1, Nisbet 1, Parry 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 100

1928-1929

2 - Div

Bargh G. W.11	Hair A.31	Morris D.38	Robson N.8
Cameron K.12	Hamilton H.12	Moss F.11	Russell W. F.8
Chandler S. E.5	Hamilton T.27	Nelson J. H.4	Smith A. C.15
Craven J.1	Harrison G.41	Nisbet G.6	Wade W. A.11
Crawford R.42	James A. W.36	Parry G.2	Ward F.39
Ewart J.31	Kerr J.30	Reid A. M.41	

Scorers:

Hair 19, Harrison 16, Reid 13, James 10, Russell 6, Robson 5, Smith 3, Bargh 2,
Ward 2, Chandler 1, Nisbet 1 - TOTAL 78

1929-1930

2 - Div

Bargh G. W.23	Hair A.13	Morris D.5	Sherry A. P.4
Craven J.34	Hamilton H.2	Nelson J. H.8	Smith A. C.10
Crawford R.42	Harrison G.22	Nisbet G.20	Smithies G. H.18
Ewart J.4	Heaton F.2	Parry G.1	Steele D. M.28
Fawcett D. H.37	Horne A.27	Reid A. M.39	Ward F.40
Foster J.1	Kerr J.35	Robson N.2	Wilson A.2
Grierson G.4	McClelland J.25	Russell W. F.14	

Scorers:

Smithies 10, McClelland 10, Crawford 7, Reid 7, Harrison 7, Bargh 6, Horne 4, Hair 3, Smith 3,
Nisbet 2, Russell 2, Steele 2, Robson 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 65

1930-1931

2 - Div

Bargh G. W.20	Hampton J.37	Nisbet G.36	Smith A. C.7
Craven J.28	Harrison G.32	Owens E.11	Smithies G. H.2
Crawford R.42	Horne A.6	Reid A. M.41	Thornborough E. H.18
Farrell V.11	Kerr J.33	Russell W. F.7	Tremelling W.18
Fawcett D. H.5	McClelland J.28	Scott T.25	Ward F.39
Hamilton H.4	Nelson J. H.13	Sherry A. P.8	Wilson A.8

Scorers:

Bargh 14, Scott 14, Reid 13, McClelland 12, Harrison 6, Tremelling 6, Farrell 5, Owens 4,
Smith 4, Crawford 2, Nisbet 1, Russell 1, Wilson 1 - TOTAL 83

1931-1932

2 - Div

Bargh G. W.35	Harper E. C.23	Nelson J. H.38	Simmons H. R.8
Crawford R.42	Heaton F.11	Nisbet G.14	Thornborough E. H.19
Farrell V.3	Horne A.6	Owens E.7	Tremelling W.6
Fawcett D. H.2	Hough W.11	Reid A. M.32	Ward F.39
Gallimore F.31	Hughes F.11	Rowley R. W. M.22	Wolf G.29
Gillespie T. B.4	Kerr J.10	Scott T.16	
Hales H.38	McCluggage A.3	Sherry A. P.2	

Scorers:

Harper 24, Scott 9, Bargh 7, Rowley 7, Crawford 5, Hales 5, Reid 4, Owens 3, Simmons 3,
Nelson 2, Tremelling 2, Gillespie 1, Ward 1, Horne 1, Heaton 1 - TOTAL 75

1932-1933

2 - Div

Bargh G.21	Hales H.20	Milne J. L.20	Tremelling W.33
Broadbent W. H.3	Harper E. C.41	Mustard J.15	Twist G.3
Crawford R.5	Holdcroft G. H.23	Nelson J. H.9	Ward F.25
Farrell V.2	Hough W.13	Nisbet G.39	Wolf G.16
Fitton G. A.19	Jones H. J.1	Nisbet R.2	
Gallimore F.41	Kelly R. F.40	Reid A. M.7	
Galloway D. W.21	Lowe H.19	Rowley R. W. M.24	

Scorers:

Harper 37, Kelly 9, Fitton 7, Hales 5, Mustard 5, Rowley 5, Bargh 3,
Jones 1, R. Nisbet 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 74

1933-1934

2 - Div

Bargh G. W.8	Gallimore L.4	Milne J. L.38	Rowley R. W. M.5
Bell J. G.14	Galloway D. W.10	Nisbet G.17	Shankly W.24
Beresford F. E.14	Harper E. C.11	Owens E.1	Stephenson G. T.26
Brain J.7	Holdcroft G. H.42	Palethorpe J. T.18	Torbet J. McD.11
Dougal J.11	Hough W.19	Pears J.7	Tremelling W.41
Fitton G. A.24	Kelly R. F.27	Pritchard T. F.1	Wilson F.6
Gallimore F.22	Lowe H.42	Rawlings J. S. D.12	

Scorers:

Stephenson 16, Palethorpe 11, Harper 6, Kelly 6, Fitton 5, Bargh 5, Bell 4, Torbet 4, Beresford 2,
Brain 2, Dougal 2, Pears 2, Rowley 2, Galloway 1, Milne 1, Rawlings 1, Wilson 1 - TOTAL 71

1934-1935

1 - Div

Bargh G. W.23	Critchley E.11	Holdcroft G. H.42	Nisbet G.2
Batey R.21	Dougal J.21	Hough W.21	Palethorpe J. T.6
Beattie A.1	Fitton G. A.19	Kelly R. F.11	Pears J.11
Bell J. G.7	Friar J.23	Lowe H.42	Shankly W.42
Beresford F. E.22	Gallimore F.21	Maxwell J. M.41	Tremelling W.36
Butterworth A.2	Hetherington J. A.9	Milne J. L.25	Vernon J. L.3

Scorers:

Maxwell 23, Friar 8, Bargh 6, Fitton 5, Palethorpe 4, Dougal 3, Beresford 2, Tremelling 2,
Pears 2, Critchley 1, Kelly 1, Bell 1, Hetherington 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 62

1935-1936

1 - Div

Batey R.4	Friar J.3	Maxwell J. M.37	Tremelling W.42
Beresford J.36	Gallimore F.42	Milne J. L.39	Vernon J. L.4
Butterworth A.12	Hetherington J. A.6	O'Donnell F.39	
Crawley T.2	Holdcroft G. H.42	O'Donnell H.39	
Dougal J.32	Lowe H.42	Shankly W.42	

Scorers:

Maxwell 17, H. O'Donnell 15, F. O'Donnell 13, Dougal 9, Butterworth 4, Beresford 4, Hetherington 2, Shankly 1, Milne 1, Vernon 1 - TOTAL 67

1936-1937

1 - Div

Atherton J.4	Burns M. W.7	Hough W.5	O'Donnell H.38
Batey J. C.9	Dougal J.30	Jennings J.19	Shankly W.29
Batey R.11	Fagan W.29	Lowe H.27	Smith T. D. M.9
Beattie A.18	Gallimore F.10	Maxwell J. M.26	Tremelling W.30
Beresford J.35	Gallimore L.5	Milne J. L.35	Vernon J. L.7
Briscoe J. E. R.5	Holdcroft G. H.35	O'Donnell F.39	

Scorers:

F. O'Donnell 16, Maxwell 12, H. O'Donnell 7, Beresford 6, Fagan 6, Dougal 3, Milne 2, Atherton 1, Jennings 1, Tremelling 1, Vernon 1 - TOTAL 56

1937-1938

1 - Div

Batey R.14	Fagan W.6	McIntosh J. M.4	Shankly W.41
Beattie A.41	Gallimore F.32	Maxwell J. M.24	Smith R. D. M.34
Beattie R.31	Garrett A. C.2	Milne J. L.36	Summerbee G. C.1
Beresford J.5	Holdcroft G. H.37	Mutch G.32	Tremelling W.2
Burns M. T.5	Lowe H.9	O'Donnell F.14	Watmough R.20
Dougal J.32	Lowrie G.5	O'Donnell H.35	

Scorers:

Dougal 14, Mutch 12, Beattie R. 9, Maxwell 8, F. O'Donnell 7, H. O'Donnell 5, Watmough 4, Milne 2, Garrett 2, Shankly 1 - TOTAL 64

1938-39

1 - Div

Batey R.39	Gallimore F.42	Maxwell J. M.1	Shankly W.40
Beattie A.40	Holdcroft G. H.42	Miller A.2	Smith T. D. M.1
Beattie R.42	Lowe H.1	Milne J. L.38	Summerbee G. C.2
Cox J.5	McGibbon T.22	Mutch G.42	White F. R. H.19
Dougal J.40	McIntosh J. M.23	O'Donnell H.20	Willacy D. L.1

Scorers:

Dougal 19, Mutch 10, White 10, R. Beattie 5, McIntosh 3, Milne 3, McGibbon 2, H. O'Donnell 2, Cox 1 - TOTAL 63

1939/1940

1 - Div

Batey R.3	Holdcroft G. H.3	Mutch G.3	Williams E.3
Beattie R.3	Hunter J. B.3	Shankly W.3	Wharton J. E.3
Gallimore F.3	Milne J. L.3	White F. R. H.3	

Scorers:- None

1946-1947

1 - Div

Beattie A.25	Finney T.32	McLaren A.14	Watson W. T.15
Beattie R.37	Garth J.21	Mutch G.6	Wharton J. E.25
Brown W. F.8	Gooch J. A. G.1	Nuttall W.2	Williams E.33
Corr P. J.3	Hamilton W.37	Robertson W. J. T.1	Wilson J. G.14
Dainty A.1	Horton J. K.10	Scott W. J.42	
Dougal J.5	Jessop W.4	Shankly W.41	
Fairbrother J.41	McIntosh W. D.40	Simpson R.4	

Scorers:

McIntosh 26, Finney 7, Garth 7, Wharton 7, R. Beattie 6, McLaren 6, Shankly 5, Wilson 5, Mutch 3, Dainty 1, Dougal 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 76

1947-1948

1 - Div

Anders H.20	Garth J. R.2	Horton J. K.41	Scott W. J.31
Beattie R.30	Gooch J. A. G.34	Jackson H.12	Shankly W.32
Brown W. F.1	Gray D.36	McClure W.12	Walton J. W.11
Calverley A.13	Hall W.7	McIntosh W. C.34	Waters P. M.13
Dougal W.10	Hannah W. K.11	McLaren A.41	Williams E.29
Finney T.33	Hindle J.1	Robertson W. J. T.6	Wilson J. G.2

Scorers-

McLaren 17, McIntosh 14, Finney 13, Shankly 6, Beattie 5, Jackson 3, Hannah 3,
McClure 2, Walton 2, Wilson 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 67

1948-1949

1 - Div

Anders H.15	Dougal W.12	Knight J.16	Robertson W.J.T.20
Beattie R.37	Finney T.24	Langton R. J.39	Scott W. J.19
Bogan T.11	Gooch J. A. G.16	McIntosh W. D.17	Shankly W.6
Brown E.7	Hannah W. K.3	McLaren A.14	Walton J. W.38
Brown W. F.28	Horton J. K.27	Mattinson H.2	Waters P. M.21
Corbett W. R.19	Jackson H.6	Morrison A. C.19	
Davie J. G.18	Kane L. R.2	Newlands M.26	

Scorers:

Langton 12, Beattie 9, Morrison 8, Finney 7, McIntosh 6, McLaren 6, Knight 4, Dougal 2,
Jackson 2, Anders 2, E. Brown 2, Hannah 1, OG 1 -TOTAL 62

1949-1950

2 - Div

Anders H.19	Finney T.37	Knight J.23	Robertson W.T.J.24
Beattie R.14	Forbes W.16	Langton R. J.16	Scott W. J.18
Brown E.24	Garvie J.5	Mattinson H.12	Walton J. W.32
Brown W. F.3	Gooch J. A. G.23	Morrison A. C.23	Waters P. M.30
Cunningham W.C.30	Hannah W. K.1	Newlands M.19	
Davie J. G.10	Horton J. K.31	Quigley E.20	
Docherty T. H.15	Kane L. R.3	Ramscar F. T.14	

Scorers:

E. Brown 12, Finney 10, Morrison 9, Horton 6, Quigley 5, Beattie 5, Knight 3, Ramsar 3,
Langton 2, Cunningham 1, Anders 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 60

1950-1951

2 - Div

Anders H.6	Finney T.34	Mattinson H.28	Scott W. J.31
Beattie R.27	Forbes W.42	Morrison A. C.42	Walton J. W.16
Brown E.5	Gooch J. A. G.27	Newlands M.16	Wayman G.34
Cunningham W.C.31	Horton J. K.37	Quigley E.20	
Docherty T. H.42	Marston J. E.19	Ramscar F. T.5	

Scorers:

Wayman 27, Horton 22, Finney 13, Quigley 9, Morrison 8, Beattie 4, Forbes 2,
Brown 2, Ramsar 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 91

1951-1952

1 - Div

Anders H.7	Finney T.33	Kaile G. W.2	Quigley E.12
Beattie R.33	Forbes W.29	Lewis D. I. E.8	Scott W. J.34
Cunningham W.C.42	Foster R. J.17	Marston J. E.42	Walton J. W.8
Docherty T. H.42	Gooch J. A. G.34	Morrison A. C.42	Wayman C.41
Dunn J.13	Horton J. K.15	Newlands M.8	

Scorers:

Wayman 24, Finney 13, Morrison 12, Beattie 6, Horton 5, Forbes 3, Quigley 3,
Foster 2, Lewis 2, OG 4 - TOTAL 74

1952-1953

1 - Div

Anders H.2	Dunn J.25	Lewis D. I. E.29	Scott W. J.28
Beattie R.12	Finney T.34	Marston J. E.42	Thompson G. H.30
Baxter J. C.33	Forbes W.17	Morrison A. C.42	Walton J. W.14
Cunningham W.C. 41	Foster R. J.11	Newlands M.12	Wayman C.42
Docherty T. H. ...41	Horton J. K.5	Robertson W. J. T. 1	Wilson J. R.1

Scorers:

Wayman 23, Finney 17, Morrison 13, Lewis 12, Baxter 7, Foster 4, Horton 3,
Dunn 2, Beattie 2, Anders 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 85

1953-1954

1 - Div

Baxter J. C.42	Evans R. P.3	Kaile G. W.5	Walton J. W.37
Beattie R.1	Finney T.23	Marston J. E.42	Waterhouse K.1
Campbell L. G. ...13	Forbes W.19	Mattinson H.27	Wayman C.34
Cunningham W.C. 30	Foster R. J.28	Mitton G. K.2	Wilson J. R.4
Docherty T. H. ...26	Hatsell D.17	Morrison A. C.35	
Dunn J.21	Higham P.1	Scott W. J.4	
Else F.1	Jones E.7	Thompson G. H. ...39	

Scorers:

Wayman 25, Baxter 15, Foster 15, Finney 11, Hatsell 11, Morrison 7,
Kaile 1, Evans 1, Forbes 1 - TOTAL 87

1954-1955

1 - Div

Baird S.15	Else F.5	Higham P.14	Thompson G. H.37
Baxter J. C.39	Evans R. P.2	Jones E.6	Walton J. W.38
Campbell L. G. ...11	Finney T.30	Lawrenson T.1	Waterhouse K.8
Cunningham W.C. 24	Forbes W.38	Marston J. E.40	Wayman C.6
Docherty T. H. ...39	Foster R. J.28	Mattinson H.7	Wilson J. R.21
Dunn J.3	Hatsell D.17	Morrison A. C.33	

Scorers:

Baxter 17, Foster 13, Hatsell 10, Higham 10, Morrison 8, Finney 7, Wayman 6,
Docherty 3, Waterhouse 3, Campbell 2, Baird 2, Evans 1 OG 1 - TOTAL 83

1955-1956

1 - Div

Baxter J. C.29	Else F.8	Hatsell D.23	Thompson G. H.34
Campbell L. G. ...13	Evans R. P.9	Lewis E.11	Thompson T.42
Cunningham W.C. 24	Finney T.32	Mattinson H.27	Walton J. W.39
Docherty T. H. ...41	Forbes W.30	Morrison A. C.19	Waterhouse K.6
Dunn J.21	Foster R. J.15	Taylor S. M.15	Wilson J. R.24

Scorers:

T. Thompson 23, Finney 17, Hatsell 9, Baxter 7, Foster 5, Morrison 4, Taylor 2, Lewis 2,
Docherty 1, Waterhouse 1, Forbes 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 73

1956-1957

1 - Div

Baxter J. C.39	Else F.42	Mattinson H.10	Walton J. W.42
Campbell L. G. ...13	Evans R. P.19	Milne G.5	Waterhouse K.5
Cunningham W.C. 41	Finney T.34	Morrison A. C.6	Wilson J. R.1
Dagger J. L.25	Foster R. J.2	O'Farrell F.18	
Docherty T. H. ...37	Hatsell D.10	Taylor S. M.37	
Dunn J.37	Lewis E.1	Thompson T.38	

Scorers:

Thompson 26, Finney 22, Taylor 13, Baxter 9, Hatsell 5, Dagger 2, Foster 2,
O'Farrell 1, Waterhouse 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 84

1957-1958

1 - Div

Alston A. G.2	Dunn J.37	Knowles J.2	Taylor S. M.36
Baxter J. C.37	Else F.40	Mattinson H.4	Thompson T.41
Cunningham W.C. 42	Farrall A.6	Mayers D.34	Walton J. W.42
Dagger J. L.10	Finney T.34	Milne G.5	
Docherty T. H.40	Hatsell D.10	O'Farrell F.40	

Scorers:

Thompson 34, Finney 26, Taylor 14, Mayers 12, Baxter 5, Hatsell 3, Farrall 1,
Alston 1, Dagger 1, Docherty 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 100

1958-1959

1 - Div

Alston A. G.7	Else F.37	Mayers D.37	Thompson T.34
Barton J. B.3	Farrall A.11	Milne G.30	Walton J. W.36
Baxter J. C.26	Finney T.16	O'Farrell F.33	Wilson J. R.4
Campbell L. G.6	Hatsell D.35	O'Neill N. J.2	Wylie J. E.5
Cunningham W.C. 42	Lambert J. G.13	Smith J. A. G.18	
Dagger J. L.6	Lynne M. G. A.2	Sneddon D.1	
Dunn J.33	Mattinson H.8	Taylor S. M.17	

Scorers-

Thompson 20, Hatsell 16, Mayers 7, Finney 6, Baxter 5, Farrall 4, Taylor 2, Campbell 2,
Alston 2, Lambert 1, Walton 1, Milne 1, Cunningham 1, Smith 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 70

1959-1960

1 - Div

Alston A. G.10	Farrall A.10	Lambert J. G.3	Sneddon D.40
Campbell L. G.8	Finney T.37	Mayers D.19	Taylor S. M.34
Cunningham W.C. 24	Fullam J.12	Milne G.38	Thompson T.21
Dagger J. L.14	Hatsell D.3	O'Farrell F.10	Walton J. W.42
Dunn J.29	Heyes K.3	Richardson G.13	Wilson J. R.15
Else F.42	Humes J. J.1	Smith J. A. G.34	

Scorers:

Finney 17, Thompson 12, Sneddon 11, Taylor 10, Dagger 5, Mayers 4, Farrall 4, Alston 3,
Smith 3, Milne 2, Lambert 2, Campbell 2, O'Farrell 1, Walton 1, Cunningham 1, OG 1 -
TOTAL 79

1960-1961

1 - Div

Alston A. G.37	Kelly J. A.2	Ross G.3	Thompson T.13
Cunningham W.C. 31	Lambert J. G.6	Singleton A. J.37	Walton J. W.6
Dagger J. L.6	Mayers D.28	Smith J. A. G.10	Wilson D. C.2
Dunn J.4	Milne G.3	Sneddon D.37	Wilson J. R.8
Else F.40	O'Farrell F.17	Spavin A.9	Wylie J. E.39
Fullam J.37	O'Neill J.36	Taylor S. M.10	
Humes J. J.1	Richardson G.2	Thompson P.38	

Scorers:

Alston 9, P. Thompson 7, Fullam 6, Sneddon 5, Mayers 3, Smith 2, T. Thompson 2, Lambert 1,
Spavin 1, Richardson 1, Wylie 1, D. Wilson 1, OG 4 - TOTAL 43

1961-1962

2 - Div

Alston A. G.31	Dawson A. D.19	Ross G.40	Thompson P.42
Barber D. E.17	Gornall J.1	Singleton A. J.40	Wilson D. C.23
Barton J. B.4	Humes J. J.16	Smith J. A. G.31	Wilson J. R.12
Biggs A. G.39	Kelly J. A.38	Sneddon D.13	Wylie J. E.38
Cunningham W.C. 29	O'Neill J.3	Spavin A.26	

Scorers:

Biggs 21, Thompson 9, Dawson 9, Alston 7, Smith 2, Spavin 2, D. Wilson 1,
Humes 1, Sneddon 1, Barber 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 55

1962-1963

2 - Div

Alston A. G.15	Dawson A. D.41	Lapot S.4	Spavin A.32
Barber D. E.15	Donnelly J.29	Lawton N.15	Thompson P.42
Barton J. B.2	Gornall J.3	O'Neill N. J.9	Wilson D. C.39
Biggs A. G.9	Holden A. D.23	Ross G.39	Wilson J. R.2
Cunningham W.C.9	Kelly J. A.40	Singleton A. J.38	Wylie J. E.9
Davidson I.16	Kendall H.2	Smith J. A. G.29	

Scorers:

Dawson 22, D. Wilson 6, Spavin 5, Holden 5, Alston 4, Thompson 4, Lawton 3, Ross 2, Smith 2,
Barber 1, Biggs 1, Donnelly 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 59

1963-1964

2 - Div

Ashworth A.31	Donnelly J.9	Lawton N.38	Smith J. A. G.33
Barber D. E.5	Godfrey B. C.11	Lee F.1	Spavin A.40
Barton J. B.2	Holden A. D.39	Napier C. R. A.1	Wilson D. C.41
Davidson I.37	Kelly J. A.40	Ross G.42	
Dawson A. D.41	Kendall H.9	Singleton A. J.42	

Scorers:

Dawson 30, Ashworth 14, Wilson 11, Holden 6, Lawson 6, Godfrey 5, Spavin 4,
Kendall 1, Davidson 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 79

1964-1965

2 - Div

Ashworth A.5	Donnelly J.7	Lapot S.2	Smith J. A. G.40
Barton J. B.25	Godfrey B. C.37	Lawton N.24	Spavin A.42
Coleman A. G.5	Hannigan E.11	Lee F.4	Watt W. D.4
Cranston W.14	Holden A. D.28	Patrick B.9	Wearmouth M.1
Davidson I.14	Kelly J. A.17	Ross G.32	Wilson D. C.36
Dawson A. D.36	Kendall H.29	Singleton A. J.40	

Scorers:

Dawson 26, Godfrey 25, Kendall 7, Wilson 6, Holden 2, Lee 2, Lawton 2, Spavin 2,
Smith 1, Coleman 1, Cranston 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 76

1965-1966

2 - Div

Ashworth A.6	Greenhalgh B. A.7	Lee F.29	Veall R.10
Barton J. B.12	Hannigan E.29	Lyall G.2	Watt W. D.3
Cranston W.13	Kelly J. A.30	Ross G.42	Wearmouth M.2
Dawson A. D.35	Kendall H.39	Singleton A. J.32	Wilson D. C.14
Donnelly J.10	Lapot S.6	Smith J. A. G.32	
Godfrey B. C.38	Lawton N.36	Spavin A.35	

Scorers:

Godfrey 17, Dawson 14, Hannigan 11, Greenhalgh 5, Kendall 4, Lawton 4, Lee 3,
Lapot 2, Spavin 1, Wilson 1 - TOTAL 62

1966-1967

2 - Div

Brown J. C.1	Greenhalgh B. A.7	Lee F.36	Smith J. A. G.40
Cranston W.17	Hannigan E.42	Lyall G.6	Spavin A.39
Crossley P.1	Hughes D. R.1	McNab J.5	Stewart G.1
Dawson A. D.28	Kelly J. A.40	Patrick B.1	Wearmouth M.8
Donnelly J.1	Kendall H.25	Ritchie J.2	Wilson D. C.14
Forrest J.8	Lapot S.3	Ross G.40	
Godfrey B. C.33	Lawton N.27	Singleton A. J.36	

Scorers:

Dawson 13, Hannigan 12, Lee 8, Lawton 7, Godfrey 5, Spavin 4, Wilson 3, Forrest 3, Smith 2,
Greenhalgh 2, Kendall 1, Lyall 1, Ross 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 65

1967-1968

2 - Div

Charnley R. O. 23	Hannigan E. 15	Lawton N. 4	Singleton A. J. 21
Cranston W. 11	Hawkins G. N. 11	Lee F. 19	Smith J. A. G. 35
Crossley P. 2	Heppolette R. W. M. 2	Lyll G. 15	Spavin A. 20
Forrest J. 16	Hughes D. R. 2	McNab J. 39	Stewart G. 1
Gemmill A. 29	Irvine W. J. 11	Patrick B. 23	Temple D. W. 32
Godfrey B. C. 7	Kelly J. A. 41	Ritchie J. 32	
Greenhalgh B. A. 4	Knighton K. 20	Ross G. 27	

Scorers:

Temple 8, Irvine 6, Hannigan 5, Charnley 4, Gemmill 4, Lyall 4, Ritchie 4, Lee 3,
Greenhalgh 2, Cranston 1, McNab 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 43

1968-1969

2 - Div

Bright D. 1	Ingram G. 32	Lyll G. 4	Smith J. A. G. 12
Cranston W. 9	Irvine W. J. 37	McNab J. 31	Spark A. M. 14
Gemmill A. 18	Kelly J. A. 41	Patrick B. 6	Spavin A. 31
Hawkins G. N. 35	Knighton K. 42	Ritchie J. 16	Stewart G. 1
Heppolette R. W. M. 17	Lee F. 28	Robinson R. M. 2	Temple D. W. 22
Hughes D. R. 5	Lloyd N. W. 2	Ross G. 39	Wilson D. C. 17

Scorers:

Irvine 15, Ingram 6, Lee 4, Gemmill 3, Knighton 3, Temple 2, McNab 1, Spavin 1, Spark 1,
Wilson 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 38

1969-1970

2 - Div

Clark C. 13	Ingram G. 18	McNab J. 30	Stewart G. 1
Cranston W. 16	Irvine W. J. 16	Patrick B. 11	Temple D. M. 21
Gemmill A. 39	Kelly J. A. 41	Ritchie J. 31	Tinsley A. 8
Hawkins G. N. 41	Lee F. 19	Ross G. 31	Wilson D. C. 25
Heppolette R. W. M. 39	Lloyd N. W. 12	Spark A. M. 14	
Hughes D. R. 1	Lyll G. 2	Spavin A. 33	

Scorers:

Gemmill 6, Irvine 5, Lloyd 5, Ingram 4, Temple 4, Hawkins 3, Heppolette 2, Lee 2, Clark 1, McNab 1,
Patrick 1, Ritchie 1, Spark 1, Spavin 1, Tinsley 1, Wilson 1, OG 4 - TOTAL 43

1970-1971

3 - Div

Bird J. C. 7	Heppolette R. W. M. 38	Lee F. 6	Ross G. 43
Clark C. 33	Hughes D. R. 13	Lloyd N. W. 3	Spark A. M. 43
Gemmill A. 7	Ingram G. 39	Lyll G. 28	Spavin A. 40
Ham R. S. 30	Irvine W. J. 13	McMahon J. J. 11	Wilson D. C. 21
Hawkins G. N. 46	Kelly J. A. 46	McNab J. 39	

Scorers:

Ingram 22, Ham 11, Heppolette 8, Lyall 5, Spavin 4, Wilson 3, Clark 3, Irvine 1,
Spark 1, McNab 1, Lloyd 1, OG 3 - TOTAL 63

1971-1972

2 - Div

Bird J. C. 42	Ham R. S. 13	Lyll H. 34	Spark A. M. 19
Blyth J. A. 1	Hawkins G. N. 38	McIlmoyle H. 35	Spavin A. 36
Brown J. C. 5	Heppolette R. W. M. 36	McMahon J. J. 32	Tarback A. D. 19
Bruce A. R. 1	Ingram G. 18	McNab J. 25	Williams S. G. P. 1
Clark C. 19	Kelly J. A. 36	Ritchie J. 12	Wilson D. C. 2
Connor D. R. 14	Lamb A. D. 7	Ross G. 3	Young N. J. 14

Scorers:

McIlmoyle 11, Tarback 10, Ingram 8, Clark 5, Lyall 5, Ham 4, Young 3, Heppolette 2,
Bird 1, Lamb 1, Spark 1, Spavin 1 - TOTAL 52

1972-1973

2 - Div

Baxter S. W. 2	Davies R. 2	McIlmoyle H. 24	Spark A. M. 36
Bird J. C. 41	Hawkins G. N. 39	McMahon J. J. 36	Spavin A. 24
Brown J. C. 12	Heppolette R. W. M. 17	McNab J. 30	Tarbuck A. D. 23
Bruce A. R. 28	Holden M. G. 6	Morley W. A. 2	Williams A. G. P. 2
Clark C. 7	Kelly J. A. 30	Ross G. 3	Wilson D. C. 33
Connor D. R. 15	Lamb A. D. 14	Snookes E. 7	Young N. J. 29

Scorers:

Bruce 13, Young 7, Tarbuck 7, Wilson 5, McNab 2, Spark 1, McMahon 1, Holden 1 - TOTAL 37

1973-1974

2 - Div

Baxter S. W. 24	Hawkins G. N. 31	McNab J. 23	Stiles N. P. 27
Bird J. C. 28	Healey R. 6	Morley W. A. 7	Treacy R. C. P. 19
Brown J. C. 30	Holden M. G. 21	Sadler D. 27	Williams S. G. P. 6
Bruce A. R. 26	Hudson G. 1	Smith J. 1	Wilson D. C. 1
Burns F. 42	Kelly J. A. 5	Snookes E. 13	Young N. J. 24
Coleman G. M. 7	Lamb A. D. 19	Spark A. M. 17	
Elwiss M. 11	McMahon J. J. 42	Spavin A. 4	

Scorers:

Bruce 9, Young 6, Elwiss 5, Holden 4, Burns 5, Williams 2, Sadler 2, Bird 2, Spark 1,
Stiles 1, Baxter 1, McMahon 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 40

1974-1975

3 - Div

Baxter M. J. 1	Coleman G. M. 10	Lawrenson M. T. 3	Stiles N. P. 17
Baxter S. W. 8	Doyle S. G. 12	McMahon J. J. 25	Thomson R. B. 6
Bird J. C. 46	Elwiss M. 43	Morley W. A. 44	Treacy R. C. P. 8
Brown J. C. 19	Fielding M. 9	Sadler D. 29	Turnks R. W. 27
Burns F. 45	Holden M. G. 42	Smith J. 3	Williams S. G. P. 10
Charlton R. 38	Lamb A. D. 25	Spark A. M. 36	

Scorers:

Holden 17, Elwiss 10, Morley 10, Charlton 8, Bird 6, Burns 3, Coleman 2, Lamb 1,
McMahon 1, Smith 1, OG 4 - TOTAL 63

1975-1976

3 - Div

Baxter M. J. 16	Clarke T. 3	McMahon J. J. 41	Taylor B. 3
Baxter S. W. 5	Coleman G. M. 15	Morley W. A. 25	Thomson R. B. 1
Bird J. C. 2	Doyle S. C. 24	Robinson M. J. 1	Treacy R. C. P. 27
Brown J. K. 29	Elwiss M. 46	Sadler D. 28	Tunks R. W. 43
Bruce A. R. 38	Lamb A. D. 8	Smith J. 27	Williams S. P. G. 44
Burns F. 27	Lawrenson M. T. 24	Spark A. M. 29	

Scorers:

Bruce 15, Elwiss 15, Treacy 11, Smith 7, Morley 6, Coleman 2, McMahon 2,
Baxter 1, Brown 1, Doyle 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 62

1976-1977

3 - Div

Baxter M. J. 26	Cochrane J. 1	Lawrenson M. T. 46	Smith J. 34
Brown J. K. 33	Coleman G. M. 44	McMahon J. J. 31	Thomson R. B. 4
Bruce A. R. 46	Doyle S. C. 18	Mitchell B. 7	Tunks R. W. 38
Burns F. 44	Elwiss M. 45	Sadler D. 20	Williams S. P. G. 44
Cameron D. 14	Lamb A. D. 3	Smith A. 8	

Scorers:

Bruce 24, Elwiss 19, Coleman 3, Smith 3, Thomson 3, Brown 2, Lawrenson 2, Mitchell 2,
Baxter 1, Burns 1, Cochrane 1, Sadler 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 64

1977-1978

3 - Div

Baxter M. J.45	Coleman G. M.45	McMahon J. J.30	Tunks R. W.46
Brown J. K.2	Cross G. F.40	Robinson M. J.8	Uzelac S.2
Bruce A. R.45	Doyle S. C.25	Smith J.14	Wilson H.18
Burns F.36	Elwiss M.46	Spavin A.1	
Cameron D.40	Haslegrave S. M.38	Thomson R. B.25	

Scorers:

Bruce 27, Elwiss 11, Thomson 7, Baxter 5, Coleman 4, Smith 3, Robinson 2,
Doyle 1, Cross 1, McMahon 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 63

1978-1979

2 - Div

Baxter M. J.37	Coleman G. M.37	O'Riordan D. J.32	Thomson R. B.13
Bell G. T. A.10	Cross G. F.5	Potts E. T.25	Tunks R. W.42
Bruce A. R.40	Doyle S. C.25	Robinson M. J.36	Uzelac S.7
Burns F.21	Elliott S. B.5	Smith J.1	Wilson H.8
Cameron D.36	Haslegrave S. M.41	Spavin A.2	
Cochrane J.2	McMahon J. J.8	Taylor B. J.29	

Scorers:

Bruce 21, Robinson 13, Coleman 7, Baxter 4, Potts 4, Thomson 4, Doyle 2, Bell 1,
Cochrane 1, Haslegrave 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 59

1979-1980

2 - Div

Anderson J. C. P.5	Cameraon D.17	McAteer A. W.21	Thomson R. B.11
Baxter M. J.37	Coleman G. M.24	McGee P. G.20	Tunks R. W.42
Bell G. T. A.35	Doyle S. C.14	Naughton W. S. B.2	Wilson H.12
Blackley J. H.27	Elliott S. B.42	O'Riordan D. J.16	
Bruce A. R.22	Elwiss M.8	Potts E. T.22	
Burns F.27	Haslegrave S. M.24	Taylor B. H.34	

Scorers:

Elliott 16, Bruce 10, McGee 8, Thomson 6, Coleman 3, Elwiss 3, Bell 2, Baxter 2,
Potts 1, Taylor 1, OG 4 - TOTAL 56

1980-1981

2 - Div

Anderson J. C. P.7	Cameron D.13	Litchfield P.3	Sayer P. A.5
Baxter M. J.42	Coleman G. M.36	McAteer A. W.20	Taylor B. J.20
Bell G. T. A.34	Doyle S. C.24	McGee P. G.32	Tunks R. W.39
Blackley J. H.21	Elliott S. B.32	Naughton W. S. B.9	Westwell S.20
Bruce A. R.29	Haslegrave S. M.8	O'Riordan D. J.19	
Burns F.29	Houston G. R.17	Potts E. T.3	

Scorers:

Bruce 13, Elliott 9, Baxter 4, McGee 4, Coleman 3, Naughton 2, Bell 1, Doyle 1,
Haslegrave 1, Houston 1, OG 2 - TOTAL 41

1981-1982

3 - Div

Anderson J. C. P.35	Coleman G. M.15	Kelly J.28	Sayer P. A.1
Bell G. T. A.22	Doyle S. C.36	Litchfield P.18	Taylor B. J.10
Blackley J. H.3	Dunn B.8	McAteer A. W.41	Walsh M.4
Booth T. A.27	Elliott S. B.34	McGee P. G.10	Westwell S.12
Bruce A. R.46	Farrelly M. J.3	Mullen J.1	
Buckley G.20	Hodge M. J.28	Naughton W. B. S.31	
Clark J.18	Houston G. R.9	O'Riordan D. J.46	

Scorers:

Bruce 18, Elliott 10, Kelly 5, O'Riordan 4, Doyle 3, Naughton 3, Buckley 2, Bell 1,
Dunn 1, McGee 1, Walsh 1, OG 1 - TOTAL 50





Name: Geoffrey Allman,
M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Home: Essington, Nr.
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Education: Graduate of
Universities of Wales,
Birmingham, Keele and
Manchester.

Occupation: Senior Lecturer in
Curriculum and Teaching
Studies in the Faculty of
Education Wolverhampton
Polytechnic. Tutor in the Open
University, Methodist local
preacher and Circuit Steward.

A football fan for almost forty years. First saw North End in the days of Jack Fairbrother, Bill Shankly and of course Tom Finney. Feature writer for numerous Football League club programmes over the past fourteen years, including North End for the last three. Author of centenary handbook of Hednesford Town, the West Midland League club from which Gordon Lee graduated.

